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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.
2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

NEWS OF THE KHOKAND REBELLION.

LONDON, December 2.—A Reuter telegram, dated Khokand, November 30th, says that notwithstanding their recent defeat at Namangahan, the Kiptschaks assembled on the left banks of the Narin and Syr Darla rivers in large numbers. Their headquarters were at Balyktschi, where they had concentrated to the number of 20,000. The Russians, under General Skobeleff, attacked the town November 24th, and the Kiptschaks were defeated.

LONDON, December 3.—A Vienna telegram to the *Daily News* says General Kauffman has informed the Government at St. Petersburg that unless he receives 50,000 men, with artillery, he cannot relieve the garrison of Khokand. All his available troops are merely sufficient to protect the frontier.

European Turkey.

LATEST OF THE HERZEGOVINAN REVOLT.

VIENNA, December 2.—The *Neue Freie Presse*, of this city, has received a telegram from a Sclavonian correspondent to the effect that the Turkish garrison of Gorausko, consisting of two battalions, have surrendered to the insurgents unconditionally. They were in all probability starved out.

LONDON, December 2.—The *Pall Mall Gazette's* telegram from Berlin states that Turkey has energetically protested to Montenegro against the Montenegrins taking part in the Hezegovinan insurrection, and that the great powers support the protest.

GERMANY, RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA IN ACCORD ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

LONDON, December 2.—A special dispatch from Berlin to the *Morning Post* says it is reported that the conferences between Bismarck, Gortschakoff and the Austrian Ambassador have shown that the three powers they represent are in perfect harmony on the Eastern question.

THE OBJECT OF THE SUEZ CANAL PURCHASE.

LONDON, December 3.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* reports that the Duc D'Harcourt, in a dispatch to the Duc Decazes, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, states that Lord Derby told him that England bought the Khedive's shares solely to prevent a preponderance of foreign influence in the Suez Canal, and would neither propose nor oppose an arrangement to place the canal under the management of an international syndicate.

Germany.

MORE MONEY FOR OUR CENTENNIAL.

BERLIN, December 2.—The Federal Council has passed a resolution adding 100,000 marks to the sum already allotted to facilitate and promote the display of German products at the Philadelphia Exhibition.

THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN GORTSCHAKOFF AND BISMARCK.

BERLIN, December 2.—The interview which has taken place between Gortschakoff and Bismarck, it is believed, has resulted in the declaration of Bismarck's approbation of the purchase of the Suez Canal by Great Britain.

Spain.

REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT FORCES.

MADRID, December 2.—The Cabinet Council has decided upon the formation of two armies, of five divisions each; one in Navarre, to be commanded by General Martinez Campos, and the other in the Basque provinces, to be commanded by General Quesada. The generals will shortly leave for their respective commands.

CHANGES IN THE CABINET.

MADRID, December 2.—The changes in the Cabinet went into effect to-day. The following Ministers took the oath of office before the King: Canovas del Castillo, President of Ministerial Council; Calderon Collantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Martin Herrera, Minister of Justice; Toreno, Minister of Public Works. The other heads of departments remain unchanged. Collantes was offered the mission to Rome, but declined it, being unable to leave the city on account of domestic affairs. He was then transferred from the Ministry of Justice to that of Foreign Affairs.

Marine News.

ANTWERP, December 2.—Arrived—Steamer State of Nevada, from Philadelphia.

LONDON, December 2.—Steamer France, from New York for this port, arrived off Deal.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 2, 1875.

COLLEGE REGATTA OF 1876—ENGLISH AND IRISH CLUBS INVITED.

A Springfield, Massachusetts, dispatch states that the Rowing Association of the American colleges, voted to challenge Oxford and Cambridge, of England, and Trinity, of Dublin, to row them a six oared race, without coxswains, at the American College Regatta in 1876. The time is the third Wednesday in July, and the place Saratoga, New London, Springfield, whose bids will be acted upon at an adjourned meeting in New York, January 6th. Philadelphia, which had been proposed, is out of the question. The New England colleges will Saratoga, and divided between Springfield and New London; all the other colleges are for Saratoga. Thomas Hughes, of England, was elected referee, with Mr. Chitty, of the London Rowing Club, as alternate.

THE FAILURE OF B. & P. LAWRENCE AND ABRAHAM BOGARDUS.

The failure of B. & P. Lawrence, stationers, of Maiden Lane, is likely to be a heavy one, though much of their indebtedness is to foreign houses.

The liabilities of Abraham Bogardus, photographer, whose failure is announced, is estimated at $35,000. He claims that if his creditors will allow him time he will pay in full.

MEETING OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—CUBAN AFFAIRS, ETC., CONSIDERED.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-day, a committee of five was appointed to consider what effect the longer continuance of the struggle in Cuba would have on the commerce of this country, and whether the Chamber should memorialize Congress in relation to the matter.

The following committee was appointed to represent the Chamber at the annual Convention of the American Board of Transportation and Commerce, to be held in Chicago on the 15th inst.: John F. Henry, F. B. Thurber, E. R. Durkee, Charles Watrous and James S. Barron.

DECISIONS IN MURDER CASES.

The General Term of the Supreme Court has rendered the followir g decisions; The application for a reversal of judement and a new trial in the case of Wm. Ellis, Wm. Thompson and Charles Weston, the negro murderers of the Jew peddler Weisburg, to be hanged December 17th, denied. Application for a stay of the execution of John Dolan, to be hanged December 10th for the murder of the brush manufacturer, Mr. Noe, of Greenwich street, denied. Appeal for a stay in all these cases, it is understood, will be made to the Court of Appeals.

REAL ESTATE OF ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART FREE OF TAXES.

The General Term of the Supreme Court has decided that the lots of the Female Academy of the Sacred Heart, for buildings, part for gardens and exercise ground for 850 inmates, be exempt from taxation, as being used solely for educational purposes.

CONDITION OF CHARLES O'CONOR.

At a late hour to-night Charles O'Conor was still alive, but his condition was stated to be very low.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For the Gulf States, Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Lake regions, stationary or falling barometer, warmer, and partly cloudy weather and northeast to southeast winds.

The steamers Idaho and City of Montreal, from Liverpool, have arrived at New York.

The steamer Mary Jarecks and consort are reported ashore on the Fox Islands, Lake Michigan.

The Egyptian troops have occupied the districts of Juba and Kismayo, disarmed the Zanzibar forces there and hoisted the Turkish flag.

The brig Lucy Ann, with lumber from Puget Sound, has been stranded at San Buenaventura and is a total loss. The crew were saved.

Tuesday evening the boiler of a portable engine belonging to William Nelson, New Harmony, Indiana, exploded, instantly killing Thomas Nelson, engineer, Solomon Knlow, sawyer, and badly scalding several other workmen.

The Arkansas Legislature has passed a bill regulating the common school system of the State, which creates the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Secretary of State has been *ex-officio* Superintendent. The bill was introduced last winter, and is thought to be an improvement on the present law.

CROOKED WHISKY.

The Indianapolis Trials—John W. Bingham Pleads Guilty—His Brother to Follow Suit—Startling Revelations Expected—Progress of Milwaukee Cases—D. W. Munn Gives Bail at Chicago.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 2.—John W. Bingham reached this city, from St. Louis, this morning, in charge of the Marshal of Missouri. When brought before the court to-day, General Shackelford presented an affidavit of Mr. Bingham, setting forth in detail the cause of his detention at St. Louis and his inability to be present on the 30th of November, the date set for his trial. The document, after relating the whereabouts of the defendant up to the 25th of November, continues: "That at the date last mentioned Mr. Bingham was in attendance upon his brother, who was ill, at Patoka, and while there his St. Louis bondsmen, without his knowledge, consent or connivance or that of his attorneys, surrendered him into the custody of the Marshal of Missouri, in which district there was an indictment pending against him, prior to that returned by the Indiana court; that he was taken to St. Louis, where, being a comparative stranger, he was unable to give a new bond and consequently could not secure his release and be here in person at the time designated for the hearing of his case. In view of these facts, defendant asks to have the forfeiture of his bonds set aside and himself released in the same recognizance as it stood prior to November 30th." The affidavit concludes with a positive denial of any intent on the part of defendant or that of his counsel to perpetrate a fraud on the court.

At this point, at the conclusion of the reading of the document, the District Prosecutor interposing no objections to the statements set forth in it, and acquiescing in the request that the forfeiture of defendant's bond be set aside, the Court so directed.

After disposing of this matter, defendant withdrew his plea of not guilty on the five separate indictments pending against him for violation of the revenue law, and entered a plea of guilty. This move was entirely unexpected, as defendant has protested his innocence of the charges preferred against him. Those who are in a position to know, however, say the evidence against him is so strong that any defense would be fruitless. Bingham has been released on his recognizance to await the sentence of the court, which in all probability will not be entered before the last of next week.

Thursday next the cases of those parties indicted who have expressed their intention of standing trial, will have a hearing, in the event that they do not put in a plea of guilty. In the interval, the condition of Mr. Gordon Bingham, who is lying ill at Patoka, is reported to be critical, necessarily delaying the disposition of his case.

The supposition is that he will pursue the same course as that of his brother J. W., as above stated. Since his release, Mr. B. has gone before the United States Grand Jury, now in session, and it is believed he will unbosom himself of the matter in his knowledge, which will cause "other hearts to bleed," and that in localities not heretofore suspected of any irregularity. The result of his disclosures will be anxiously awaited, and some startling revelations may be expected. Hiram B. Snyder, another of the parties indicted by the Grand Jury, has entered a plea of guilty.

MILWAUKEE, December 2.—In the case of Taft and Weimer, to-day, several witnesses testified to the good character of Taft and the defense rested. Mr. McKinney addressed the jury for the prosecution, and Judge Hubbell for the defense.

Louise Rindskopf was taken before Supervisor Heidrick to-day and asked whether he had paid money to any revenue officer to influence his action, and especially whether he had paid any money to S. J. Conklin, ex-revenue agent. Rindskopf refused to answer any questions, and was thereupon committed to jail.

CINCINNATI, December 2.—D. W. Munn, who was arrested here recently because of indictments pending against him in the Federal courts of St. Louis, for complicity in revenue frauds in the Southern district of Illinois, gave bail in the amount of $10,000 for his appearance in St. Louis on Monday. Mr. Munn is engaged in a law suit here, from which he cannot be absent this week without greatly inconveniencing all parties concerned.

SAN FRANCISCO.

Captain Waddell, of Pacific Mail, Threatened with Arrest for Piracy at Honolulu—Bark Lost on Destruction Island—Cave in Richmond Consolidated Mine—Attempt to Wreck a Passenger Train.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 2.—Captain Waddell, who arrived in command of the Pacific Mail steamer City of San Francisco, will not take her on her first trip to Sydney, *via* Honolulu, being threatened with arrest by the Hawaiian authorities on a charge of piracy for the destruction of the Hawaiian bark Harvest during his operations against the Arctic whaling fleet in the rebel steamer Shenandoah. Captain Lochlan will take his place temporarily, pending arrangements to secure Captain Waddell's freedom from molestation by the Hawaiian authorities.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 2.—A dispatch from Seattle to the Merchants' Exchange says that the bark Atalanta was lost on Destruction Island, near where the Pacific foundered. The crew were saved, except two. The Atalanta was owned by Pope & Talbot, of this city, and was built at Newburport in 1851 and has been on the coast for twelve years. She was valued at $5,000 and was uninsured. She left here for Port Gamble, in ballast, November 29.

A dispatch from Eureka says an extensive cave occurred in the Richmond Consolidated mine this morning. Two miners, James Martin and B. Treivar, were killed.

The up train from Palisade, last night, was ditched. A spike had been drawn from a rail, it is supposed by parties seeking to rob the express. No one was hurt.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Michigan Central—Samuel Sloan Elected Vice President—Office Removed to New York.

NEW YORK, December 2.—At a meeting of the Directors of the Michigan Central Railroad Company in this city yesterday, Samuel Sloan, President of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, was unanimously elected Vice President. The office of the Michigan Central Railroad Company has been removed to this city from Boston, where it has been located for twenty years.

New Receiver of Louisville and Cincinnati Short Line.

LOUISVILLE, December 2.—All the parties concerned in the suits against the Louisville and Cincinnati Short Line Railroad, in which a receiver was appointed over a year ago, filed a petition in court to-day asking that the office be declared vacant. The reason assigned is that the Receiver, Mr. Samuel Gill, who has filled the position very acceptably since his appointment, is now mentally deranged and unable to attend to the duties. His condition is alleged to have been produced by confinement of the brain. A certificate to this effect of Mr. Gill's physician accompanies the petition; also the affidavit of his brother and other relatives acknowledging the facts stated. The Court will appoint a new receiver to-morrow and order a reduction of salary from $7,000 to $5,000. Mr. Gill is an old railroad expert and known all over the Continent.

Extension of Lake Erie, Evansville and Southwestern.

EVANSVILLE, December 2.—At a called meeting of the City Council, this evening, a contract between the trustees of the city bonds and the Lake Erie, Evansville and Southwestern Railway Company was fully approved and ratified. This contract obligates the railway company to extend the road from Boonville, in Warrick county, to Huntingburg, in Dubois county, by the first of October next, in consideration of which the company is to receive the proceeds of $150,000 of city bonds in railroad iron. It is thought this contract will insure the completion of the road to its junction with the Louisville and St. Louis Air Line.

Schooner Foundered—Nine Lives Lost.

OSWEGO, December 2.—The schooner J. G. Jenkins foundered in a gale on Tuesday, above Oswego, and all on board were lost, as follows: Captain, John Brown, of Oswego; first mate, John Smith; second mate, Sam. McDonald; seamen, Hugh Doran, John Stewart, James Williams, Michael Dropty, Wm. Benner, all of Oswego, and a woman cook, from Buffalo. The vessel was insured for $8,000, and cargo for $26,000.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

The Prince of Wales and suite have arrived at Kandy, Ceylon.

Edward C. Voltz, stage manager at the Euclid Avenue Opera House, Cleveland, died at his residence in that city yesterday morning.

Robert W. Dressur, a well-known merchant of Franklin street, Boston, shot himself at his country residence at Newton, Upper Falls, dying instantly.

Lord Houghton sailed for Europe on Wednesday on the steamer Abyssinia.

Right Rev. Bishop Haro, the missionary bishop of Nicotara, sailed on the same steamer.

Ex-Senator Carpenter announces, over his signature, that he will bring suit for libel against the Chicago *Tribune* and the Chicago *Journal*. The alleged libels were charges to the effect that he was a party to the operations of the whisky ring.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The Fight for the Speakership.

Randall's Chances Not so Sure---He is Unfortunate in His Advocates.

Republican Senatorial Caucus to be Held on Monday.

Investigation into the Shipment of Petroleum on Vessels.

General Foster, Minister to Mexico, in the City.

Condition of Affairs on the Mexican Border.

Dishonest Pension Agents---Several Philadelphia Firms in Disgrace.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1875.

The Contest for Speaker.

Although the friends of Randall claim that the prospects of their candidate are improving every day, the indications are not so flattering. Several Western Democratic Representatives who arrived here to-day, after taking a survey of the field, remarked that they had come here with their minds made up to vote for Randall, but seeing John Morrissey and men of that stripe urging his election, they had changed their minds. The class of men who have espoused the cause of Randall are certainly not such as would improve his chances. The operations of the Kerr men have been earnest and substantial, and promise a good yield of votes. The Randall people claim for their candidate on the first, eighty-one on the second and ninety on the third ballot—eight-nine necessary to a nomination. The results on the other candidates will depend entirely upon the selection of Speaker. It is intimated that the Democratic caucus will not take up the question of subsidies and define a policy.

Great excitement was created to-night in consequence of a statement that Mr. Kerr is weighing had offered the chairmanship of the Ways and Means to Mr. Wood. Inquiry of both parties demonstrate that this was incorrect. Senator Gordon is in the city. It has been discovered that he traveled throughout the South during the past summer in the service of the Free Trade League, and is now stated to be with the South for Kerr. Lamar, to be Chairman of the caucus, is a zealous supporter of Randall.

The Illinois delegation met to-night and decided unanimously for Kerr. They also agreed not to present a candidate for any office.

Republican Senatorial Caucus.

There will be a Republican Senatorial caucus on Monday to determine upon a line of action with reference to the political status of the House. There is also a disposition on the part of the opponents of the Sergeant-at-Arms to make an effort to secure his removal. There is a division of opinion as to whether it will be necessary to elect a President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

The Mexican Border.

Mr. Foster, United States Minister to Mexico, is in the city, with reference, it is said, to the condition of affairs upon the Mexican border.

Transportation of Petroleum.

The Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats was in consultation with the Solicitor of the Treasury to-day on the question of transportation of petroleum. The recent disasters have also given rise to a disposition to investigate the manner of the granting of certificates to steamboats. It is believed that the local officers are not as rigid in the examination of vessels as they might be. If this proves correct, some changes may be expected. It was said to-day that this service would stand an overhauling with benefit.

Fraudulent Pensions—Philadelphia Agents Suspended.

The Commissioner of Pensions to-day suspended the following Philadelphia firms: McDevitt & Co., Achilver Francis, Register & Matthews and Paulson & Co., for alleged efforts to obtain pensions on fraudulent evidence. These firms were engaged in practice before this bureau. This action of the Commissioner involves the suspension of twenty thousand cases, and the possible annual payment of two million dollars. The special agents of the bureau have been engaged for some time in gathering evidence. This shows that these firms were in the habit of having a deputy county clerk affix the seal of the court to affidavits without seeing the persons certified as having been sworn. This was to avoid examination for perjury. It is said that similar frauds have been practiced in other cities.

General Babcock Asks for a Court of Inquiry.

General Babcock, an officer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, has asked a court of inquiry respecting the allegations of complicity in the whisky frauds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1875.

STOREKEEPERS APPOINTED.

The following storekeepers were to-day appointed for the First district of Wisconsin: Wm. Fowle, Ackerly Townsend, Thomas Forbes, Chas. H. Warner, John Forbes, Henry E. Early, Duncan McDonald, Fitzhenry McClure.

ORATOR, POET AND READER FOR THE CENTENNIAL.

The Centennial Committee on Opening Ceremonies, have selected William M. Evarts for orator, H. W. Longfellow for poet and a grandson of Richard H. Lee, of Virginia, reader of the Declaration of Independence.

MARCUS L. WARD FOR COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The report prevails to-day that Marcus L. Ward, of New Jersey, has been tendered the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

RETURN OF WHISKY WITNESSES.

Ex-Commissioner Douglass, Col. L. P. Luckey, Private Secretary to the President, and other gentlemen who have been in St. Louis the past week as witnesses in the whisky fraud cases, returned here to-day.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ON SATURDAY.

Messrs. Kerr, Randall and Cox, candidates for the Speakership, met this afternoon and agreed that the Democratic caucus be held at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and that Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi, preside over it.

METHODIST FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

The anniversary of the Methodist Freedmen's Aid Society was held at the Metropolitan church to-night, with a large attendance. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Townsend, of Boston University, and Rev. Dr. Walden, of Cincinnati.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending November 30, 1875. Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

T. B. Atterbury, Pittsburgh—Lamp chimney.
H. H. Berger, Pittsburgh—Wash board.
J. S. Atkinson, Pittsburgh—Sad ironing machine.
B. Blakewell, Pittsburgh—Molds for glassware.
A. Kirk, Pittsburgh—Rock drilling machine.
A. J. Lewis, Pittsburgh—Manufacture of clevis pins.
W. F. Martin, Philadelphia—Cut-off valves.
T. G. Saint, Sharpsburg—Clothes drier.
J. Royer, Rural Valley—Horse yokes.
J. W. Ellis, Philadelphia—Turning carriage axles.
A. A. Evans, Upland—Station indicator.
F. Hickman, Reading—Folding chair.
J. F. Hoffman, Oil City—Oil well packing.
J. B. Larkins, Chester—Manufacture gates.
C. B. Nichols, Troy—Grain separator.
F. O. Ward—Philadelphia—Boots and shoes.
G. R. Westling, Mount Alto—Turning cart.
Reissue—J. Roy, Philadelphia—Horse shoe nail machine.

OHIO.

H. H. Briggs, Olmsted—Tongue support.
J. F. Ryder, Cleveland—Cameras reversing.
J. R. Dewease, Dayton—Sash fastener.
C. L. Morehouse, Cleveland—Oil press.
H. P. Adams, Cleveland—Butter packages.
P. B. Hennessy, Hamilton—Time lock.
S. Herr, Bluffton—Pad saddles.
W. Heston, Akron—Oatmeal machine.
W. C. Margedant, Hamilton—Band sawing machine.
W. C. Margedant, Hamilton—Scroll sawing machine.
E. J. Moore, Niles—Tire tightener.
B. A. Stevens, Toledo—Refrigerator.
G. Wellhouse, Akron—Grate.
Trade Mark—A. B. Dunn, Zanesville—Furniture polish.

The navigation season on the Upper Mississippi lasted two hundred and six days, the first boat arriving April 23, and the last departing November 16. But two lines ran during the season.

Rising Sun Flour
Is the best in use.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Closing Business of the National Grange at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, December 2.—The National Grange adjourned *sine die* to-night, after passing the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the sense of the National Grange, the following suggestions are applicable to the present wants of the order: As the closing scenes of this long and laborious session approach; as the memory of the previous sessions and many glorious achievements of the order return to us; as we look forward to the future, we are deeply impressed with the truth that we must at all times preserve a vital spirit of fraternity between the granges and the individual members of this order. To maintain its vigor, success and prosperity, this and the nature of our solemn obligations should ever be borne in mind. We have promised to aid and not to injure our fellow-patrons; therefore the prosperity of a brother or sister should be as precious to each one of us as is our own. Harshness has no place in the principles of our order. Its mission is one of peace, gentleness and good will. Therefore, in the discussion or application of our principles, we hold that all asperity and violence are out of place and should ever be avoided by our members. We also hold that the interpretation of any law of our order which works manifest injustice to any member is at fault, and in all applications of our laws and regulations we should always remember that the Grange is organized for the comfort, convenience and welfare of every worthy member. We trust that our members everywhere will renew their pledges of fealty to this noble brotherhood, endeavoring especially to live up to the following principles of our declaration of our purposes, viz, "We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will and vital brotherhood among ourselves and to make our order perpetual; we shall sacredly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry and all selfish ambition." These are not idle words, but vital principles, which will give life and permanence to every grange throughout our land, if our members will but emulate each other to exemplify them in their words and actions.

Mr. Aiken, of South Carolina, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the currency question is rapidly becoming a political question, and therefore should not be entertained by this Grange.

A resolution requiring the Secretary to have printed 25,000 copies of the proceedings of this session and send to each State Grange as many copies of the same as there were subordinate granges in July, 1875, under direction of the Executive Committee, and not less than ten copies to each State Grange Master, was adopted.

Mr. Moore, of the Finance Committee, submitted a resolution instructing the Fiscal Agent of the order in New York to transfer certain stocks, amounting to $15,000, to the Executive Committee of the National Grange, to enable that committee to pay the various donations to the State Granges granted at this session. Adopted.

Mr. Maxwell offered a resolution in regard to co-operation, instructing the Worthy Master to continue a correspondence with the English co-operative societies and extending friendly greetings to all such societies. Adopted.

ALBANY, N. Y.

Death of Ex-Senator Ira Harris.

ALBANY, December 2.—Ira Harris, formerly United States Senator, died at eleven o'clock to-day.

[Ex-Judge Ira Harris was born in Cortlandt county, N. Y., studied law there, and came to Albany over forty years ago and entered into partnership with Salem Dutcher. The firm was Dutcher & Harris. When the anti-rent troubles broke out, Mr. Harris was engaged by them, and was for many years the friend and adviser of the Van Rensselaer tenants. His first entry into public life was as a member of the Legislature in 1845, and as a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1846. In both positions he distinguished himself with considerable ability as an intelligent legislator and an able debater. He was chosen one of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial district in 1847, under the new Constitution, and won new reputation as an able and impartial judge. From the bench he was transferred to the Senate of the United States, where he served with honorable mark from 1861 to 1867. Mr. Harris was twice married. He was for many years a leading member of the Baptist Church. He was respected and esteemed wherever he was known.]

COLUMBUS.

Ohio Board of Centennial Managers—County Auditors' Convention—State Dental Association.

COLUMBUS, December 2.—The Ohio Board of Centennial Managers met here to-day. State School Commissioner Smart explained the system that has been adopted by the educators of the State to have Ohio educational matters fully represented at the Centennial, which was fully concurred in by the Board. Reports received from sub-agents, indicate that all the space allotted to Ohio will be fully occupied. The Board adjourned to meet here January 5.

The County Auditors' State Convention adjourned without transacting any special business. It is to meet here again on the third Wednesday of next January. A. S. Frazier, of Greene, was elected President; E. W. Walters, of Shelby, Secretary, and S. Case, of Wood, Treasurer.

The State Dental Convention have elected C. R. Taft, of Cincinnati, President; J. C. Whinnery, of Salem, and A. L. Brown, of Chillicothe, Vice Presidents; A. L. Emmenger, of Columbus, Corresponding Secretary; H. L. Ambler, of Cleveland, Recording Secretary, and G. W. Kieler, of Oxford, Treasurer.

LOUISVILLE.

Story of Domestic Discord—Troublesome Burial of a Child.

LOUISVILLE, December 2.—Some weeks ago a difficulty at Corydon, Ind., occurred between a man and his wife, named Alexander, over the burial of a child. She is a Catholic and he a strict Protestant, and upon the death of the child he had it buried in the Protestant graveyard, which caused trouble, and she had it taken up and buried in the Catholic burying ground. The child was subsequently taken up and buried in the Protestant cemetery. Since that time the remaining child has been a "bone of contention," the mother insisting on raising it a Catholic, and he declaring that it should not be. The trouble culminated in the seizure of the child by the mother last week, and on Saturday she came to this city. The father of the child and a friend came up and made a search for the little girl in Louisville, finding her Tuesday evening. Yesterday morning the overjoyed father left Corydon with his little one, a girl eight years of age, the wife having been left behind in this city.

A. Y. M

Election of Officers of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, December 2.—At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge A. Y. M. of Pennsylvania, held yesterday, the following officers were elected: Grand Master, Robert Clark, of Philadelphia; Deputy Grand Master, James Madison Porter, of Easton; Senior Grand Warden, Michael Nolan, of Philadelphia; Junior Grand Warden, Samuel B. Dick, of Meadville; Grand Treasurer, Thomas R. Patton, of Philadelphia; Grand Secretary, John Thompson, of Philadelphia.

CASUALTIES.

Boiler Explosion in Cleveland—Several Men Injured.

CLEVELAND, December 2.—A boiler in the Wood Block Sawing Works of McMahon & Steele, pavement contractors, situated on the flats near the Atlantic and Greatwestern Depot, exploded this afternoon with terrible force. Fifteen or twenty men were at work about the building, two of whom, Henry Hazely and Terace Doyle, were so severely injured that they will die. Eight others were more or less injured, none, it is thought, seriously. The building was torn to pieces and fragments of the boiler were thrown a great distance. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

Sale of Philadelphia Navy Yard.

PHILADELPHIA, December 2.—The Navy Yard in this city was to-day sold for $1,000,000. The purchaser was J. Lowber Welsh, who bought it for John C. Bullitt, attorney for parties whose names he refuses to divulge. The *Evening Telegraph* says the Navy Yard was bought for Drexel & Co., the well-known bankers, and S. & W. Welsh, a large shipping firm of this city.

This afternoon John P. Green, one of President Scott's assistants, stated positively that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was the real purchaser of the Navy Yard, but declared that they had not matured their plans for the future in relation to the property.

Rising Sun Flour
Will please your most particular customer.

NEW ORLEANS.

Condition of Suspended Banks.

NEW ORLEANS, December 2.—The official statement of the Bank of America, which suspended yesterday, show: Assets, $619,510 50; liabilities $338,756 32. The liabilities include $188,286 20 due depositors and $30,930 20 due importers and traders.

The assets of the National Bank of New York are decidedly weak. It is estimated they will yield from ten to twenty-five cents on the dollar.

FIRE RECORD.

Baptist Church Burned in Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, December 2.—A fire in the Broadway Baptist church, early this morning, almost ruined the edifice, which was valued at $70,000; loss two-thirds. The library of the pastor, Rev. J. L. Barrows, including valuable collections for years, was destroyed. Loss $7,000. Insurance on building, $44,000; on library, $2,400, divided as follows: Firemen's Fund, of New York, $7,500; Liverpool, London and Globe, of England, $5,000; Manhattan, of New York, $4,000; Home, of Columbus, Ohio, $5,000; Atlanta, of New York, $5,000; Fanuell, of Boston, $5,000; Louisville, $5,000; Hoffman, of New York, $10,000.

Dillsboro, Ind.—$15,000.

CINCINNATI, December 2.—A large barn, filled with grain, and owned by Oliver Mulford, Dillsboro, Indiana, was destroyed by fire last evening. Loss $15,000.

Wellsboro, N. Y.—$50,000.

WHITEHALL, N. Y., December 2.—Jas. McDonald's residence, with the outbuildings, at Wellsboro, was burned last night. Loss $50,000; insurance $10,000.

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS NOTES.

One of the Danville, Pa., mills has received a heavy order for rails.

Cotton goods to the value of $1,728 were exported from Philadelphia last week.

The old rolling mill at Bethlehem, Pa., has suspended operations for want of orders.

Preparations are actively in operation looking to the closing of the Lochiel iron mills, Harrisburg.

The Paxton furnaces at Harrisburg are both idle and will probably remain out of blast during the winter.

The Harrisburg Car Company has received an order for one hundred and fifty cars, and will resume operations, with a moderate force of hands, this week.

The last two furnaces at the Allentown, Pa., rolling mill are now in blast, and the whole of these extensive works are once more in successful operation.

The Bethlehem, Pa., Iron Company has begun on an order of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company for 3,000 tons of fifty-eight pounds to the yard. The order will keep the mill busy for some time hence.

The engine house of the Crane Iron Works at Catasauqua, Pa., was totally destroyed on Monday night, 22d ult., the result of spontaneous combustion among the oily cotton waste. The stacks are all, however, in blast again except No. 5.

Mr. Jonathan Keim, nurseryman, of Pottsgrove township, Montgomery county, Pa., has discovered a bed of rich iron ore, on land belonging to him near French creek falls, Warwick township, Chester county. The ore was discovered but two feet from the surface.

A discouraging outlook for laborers in Harrisburg this winter. The Chesapeake nail works have been obliged to reduce wages from $4 50 to $4 per ton. There is nothing doing at the Lochiel furnaces, and no prospects for opening the blast this winter. The Lochiel Iron Works have closed.

The Williamsport, Pa., rubber works, which have been shut down for the last two weeks on account of the want of stock, have received a large amount of raw material, and will start up again this week with a full force. It is said this factory has orders for all the work that can be turned out during the winter.

It is stated that there are about one hundred and forty mines in Schuylkill county, Pa., of which the Reading Coal and Iron Company own eighty, and individuals the sixty. All, or nearly all, of these mines are reached by railroad, making the coal region a net work of iron rails, and giving the Reading Railroad Company more miles of railroad in these "laterals" than it has in its main road.

Two locomotives of immense power have recently been erected in the Altoona shops for the specific purpose of assisting freight trains up the eastern slope, from Altoona to Gallitzin. These engines are known among railroad men as "Modocs," and owing to their peculiar construction, as well as immense weight, they can perform the work of almost two ordinary locomotives as far as power is concerned.

The Warwick, Pa., Iron Company's new furnace at Pottstown is rapidly approaching completion. The outside work is almost finished and the engine and machinery are being placed in position. The engine is of five hundred horse power, the blowing cylinder being eighty-four by ninety-six inches. Fifty additional men are now engaged at the furnace. It will be ready to blow in on February 1, 1876.

We are informed that the delegation of gentlemen interested in the West Virginia coal fields, who interviewed President Scott, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, relative to the building of a railroad from Piedmont into the undeveloped coal fields of that portion of West Virginia, have returned, and report that they have every reason to believe that the negotiations will be taken by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.—*Cumberland, Md., News.*

OHIO NEWS.

Akron has a blind pickpocket.

There were sixty-nine deaths in Cleveland last week.

Judge Fuller, of Tontogany, has a plucky daughter, Miss Flora Fuller. The other night in her father's absence a burglar broke into the house, when she confronted him with a cocked revolver, and he abruptly retired.

Isaac Ozenbaugh, while hunting deer in the northern part of Allen county, last Thursday, allowed his gun to slip off a log, and it was discharged, the ball entering his abdomen, logging near the shoulder blade. He walked almost a mile to the nearest house, and lived only eight hours.

The Ohio Penitentiary now has within its walls 1,213 convicts, being the largest number in the history of the institution. This is declared to be a larger number than is prudent, for various reasons, to be confined in one prison, and the building of another at some proper point in the State is being strongly urged by many.

Alonzo Babcock, a farmer living near there, after buying some goods at an auction store in Napoleon, Saturday evening, stepped out of the back door in an open cellar, breaking his neck, killing him instantly. A man named Sies, going to hunt Babcock, fell into the same place, receiving serious injuries. Babcock leaves a wife and seven children.

The Norwalk *Reflector* says that on last Monday morning Mrs. McGorgon, aged eighty-one, attempted to take her own life by hanging herself with a neck handkerchief to the front stairway, in the residence of her son-in-law, R. N. Partland, who resides on Hester street, in Norwalk. She was discovered hanging there almost immediately after she swung off, and was promptly cut down and brought to, but the shock was so severe that for a time her life was despaired of. The cause of the act was mental derangement.

Mrs. Sarah Heck, wife of George Heck, who lives about a mile and a half north and one mile west of Mexico, Wyandot county, near St. John's mill, was found dead last Thursday morning week, lying on the floor. About nine o'clock the old gentleman went out of doors to assist his son in rolling a barrel of salt from the wagon, and on returning found her in that position. When he left the house the old lady was ironing, and all morning app

The Commercial.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1875.

THE number of foreign and coastwise vessels arriving at Philadelphia last month was 799, against 765 during the same month last year.

THE foreign export trade of Baltimore for November amounted to $1,622,033, against $2,006,082 for the same month last year, a decrease of $384,049.

THE Milwaukee *Sentinel* speaks of Judge BLACK as one of our "most patriotic citizens." Will the *Sentinel* oblige us by pointing out the evidences or the instances of his patriotism?

JOHN CHERRY, distributing clerk of the Sandusky postoffice, has been arrested and taken to Cleveland on a charge of robbing the mails. The Postmaster General is trying to make CHERRY bounce.

THE Boston *Post* admits that the blatant rebel ex-Congressman B. G. HARRIS, of Maryland, "is a good deal of an ass." This is probably the reason why he considers himself specially fitted to fill the office of Sergeant-at-Arms of a Democratic House of Representatives.

SPEAKING of the candidacy of THOMPSON, of Ohio, for Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, a correspondent says: "He showed by his management of the Ohio canvass that he has the right sort of stuff for a Democratic politician." Exactly. As witness the Wood county telegraphic correspondence!

THE Evansville, Indiana, whisky thieves have plead guilty, with the exception of the BINGHAMS, the noted copperhead secessionists, who were the head ringmasters. The Democratic press is, we observe, quite sympathetic as to them. It is singular what changes will sometimes occur in the purr of the same stripe of cats.

IT NEVER rains but it pours. It is now said that the existence of a grand tobacco ring at St. Louis has been discovered, and that among those already indicted for defrauding the Government are men who narrowly escaped public connection with the whisky ring. Some of those implicated are said to be men of prominence, both socially and in point of late official position. "Let no guilty man escape."

THE Superintendent of the Ohio capitol recommends the fitting up of "a few bathtubs" in the capitol for the use of members of the Legislature and State officials. This is suggestive. A better plan, however, would be for the Legislature to simply repeal all the measures enacted during the past two years, pass the necessary appropriations, and then go home to their private baths and bathing houses.

THE Democratic fight over the House Speakership promises to grow into the biggest and most exciting political battle which has occurred at Washington since the contest of sixteen years ago, which finally resulted in the election of PENNINGTON. RANDALL would seem to be the top card of the pack just at present, but it is by no means certain that the final deal will not be made from the bottom.

IT BEGINS to look very much as though Secretary CHANDLER is going to smash the Indian ring into little bits of pieces about as effectually as BRISTOW is doing with the whisky ring, and JEWELL with the straw-bid ring. Secretary CHANDLER is an uncommonly fine business man, perfectly honest, and possessed of extraordinary executive ability. These are the very qualities needed at the head of the Interior Department.

WE PUBLISH, to-day, a letter from Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE on the school question. Read it carefully. We accord thoroughly with his views, but think the amendment he proposes should be made more comprehensive and be so framed as to leave no possible ground for future conflict upon this question. We ask special attention to Mr. BLAINE'S letter, and feel sure his views will meet with the approval of all thoughtful men who are not blinded by bigotry nor made partial by prejudice.

SOME of the Democratic papers seem to be concerned about a movement they imagine going on among the Republicans of Pennsylvania to defeat the selection of delegates in this State to National Convention in favor of General Grant for a third term. The dear souls need not lose sleep on this account. If there is a Republican in the State in favor of a third term we have not heard of him.—*Lebanon Courier.*

There *is* one, in the *Gazette* office, in this city; but big postoffice advertisements are not plenty enough to add to the number, just now.

THE declared intention of Governor TAYLOR, of Wisconsin, the defeated "reform" candidate for re-election, of contesting the result, has been thought by—his managers undesirable, and has been abandoned. This usual certificate of election being issued to Mayor LUDDINGTON, the Republican Governor-elect, he proceeded to the capital, the other day, and was received by Governor TAYLOR with as much suavity as the latter could summon to his aid, and treated in every way as his successor. Investigation sometimes acts like a two-edged sword, and the Democratic "managers" were afraid of the results.

IT HAS been alleged, and with some force, that although the city of New York contains more wealth and more than Philadelphia, it has never yet produced a philanthropist as liberal and as far-sighted as STEPHEN GIRARD. The ASTORS intend to perpetuate their wealth in the family line, caring little and doing less for objects of public interest; VANDERBILT proposes to do the same; and it is suspected that A. T. STEWART will follow in the same wake. They are more anxious to build up families distinguished for their wealth than to perpetuate their names by deeds of munificent charity.

FOLLOWING the lead of the other Southern Democratic States, the Mississippi White Leaguers are now aiming to get up a Constitutional Convention to concentrate the power in their own hands as against the loyalists, white and black. Terrorism, murder, intimidation of various sorts, social ostracism, all means are employed, not the least being studied misrepresentations of the true situation, to deceive the North, to accomplish their nefarious end, an end ultimately subversive of good national government and destructive of all the benefits of the war. It is not so certain that the North may not ultimately be called upon to "apologize for the past," after all.

IT IS sincerely to be hoped the efforts now being made by the Temperance Alliance to induce the employers of these cities to change their pay-day from Saturday to Monday or Tuesday, may result successfully. Employers have a great power of doing good, in this respect. The Chicago *Tribune* of Wednesday prints a letter from the manager of a large Illinois manufacturing company, in which, speaking of this subject, he says:

"Within a year from the time our works were started, I started the plan of paying on Tuesday. I am convinced that it is much better for the workmen than to receive their wages Saturday evening. We employ 140 to 160 men. I have paid on Tuesday for about seven years, and after this experience I am sure we would not be willing to change the ancient custom of paying on Saturday."

THE third annual convention of the "American Board of Transportation and Commerce"—formerly the "American Cheap Transportation Association"—will be held in Chicago on the 15th inst. Within the past few years the transportation question has, in this country, become one of the most important politico-economic questions of the age. The bringing together of trained minds from every department of commerce and agriculture for the consideration of this problem cannot but result in good. The previous conventions which have been held, although considering the matter in its preliminary stages, and necessarily in a crude and elementary manner, have inaugurated a work which in its educational features alone is of great value. Delegates representing our producing, commercial and consuming interests will be present from all the States.

REVELATIONS lately made show that the EDDY family, at Chittenden, Vt., are as great frauds in spiritualistic manifestations as KATIE KING confessed herself to be. Their tricks were so well concealed that they challenged investigation, and the spiritualists gathered at Chittenden, from far and near, as to a sort of Mecca. The manifestations, there, were regarded as unquestionably genuine, and several educated and scientific men were deceived by them. One among them, at last, more curious or more acute than the rest, discovered that the floor of the little cabinet from which the materialized spirits emerged, was constructed after the fashion of a trap-door in the theater, and when it sank down, the materialized spirit, in the shape of one of the EDDY sisters, came up a secret stair-way from the story below. This discovery has finished the EDDY family exhibitions, for the present, and those who love to be humbugged will have to transfer their affections to some new imposture.

LIBERIA.

The condition of affairs in Liberia, at present, is not encouraging for those who have put their faith in that colony as a Christianizing and civilizing influence. So far from being able to Christianize or civilize the native tribes adjoining it, the colony is in danger of being extinguished by those tribes. It its life is preserved at all it must be through aid from the Government of the United States. It is unable to defend itself and maintain its independence. It is no longer, then, an independent colony; and as there seems no reason to doubt that our Government will send an armed vessel to protect it from further attack, it may henceforth be regarded as an outlying dependence of the United States.

The Liberian colony was originally the outgrowth of that prejudice against the colored man which could not brook his presence here as a freeman, in the exercise of his natural rights as a citizen. There was a great deal of real and hearty philanthropy connected with its origin and progress, and it was the outlet of many acts of Christian benevolence; but there was mixed with all this philanthropy and benevolence a desire to get rid of the negro altogether as a factor in the population of the United States. It was fondly hoped by the promoters of this scheme of colonization that a colony could be and would be built up in Africa which should ultimately absorb the entire colored population of the Union. The conviction was entertained that as soon as the colony became prosperous a current of emigration would set in which would carry with it the colored race, in mass. That was the end in view in orgnatiyg the colonization scheme, and in promoting it during the years when slavery existed in its prime.

There were many good people who thought they saw in this Colonization Society the nucleus of the great work of removing the blot of slavery from the American name, and they also thought they saw in it a grand means for evangelizing Africa and carrying the blessings of civilization to its benighted inhabitants. Their faith was sublime in its confidence, and creditable to them as an evidence of their desire to do good and promote the sum of human happiness; but events have not justified their confidence, nor have any of the grand expectations with regard to colonization been realized. The colony never grew fast, nor has it ever been what might be called thrifty. Cargoes of liberated slaves were sent out to it annually, while slavery lasted, and many freed negroes were encouraged to emigrate; but the colony has never strengthened its stakes nor enlarged its borders; and since the abolition of slavery the number of emigrants has materially fallen off. The colony has been a mere spot on the map of Africa—a bright spot surrounded by the black and dismal fringe of a heathendom into which its rays have failed to penetrate. It has tried hard to scatter itself, and make itself felt as an ameliorating influence; but instead of subduing the savage tribes around it, the present danger is that the savage tribes will subdue it.

The colony, notwithstanding all this, is well worthy the protection of our Government, and when it is fully understood that we will not suffer it to be injured through English intrigue or cupidity, it will be left unmolested. Time, perhaps, will strengthen it, and give it sufficient force to maintain itself against aggression; but in its present weak state it well deserves our protection. It is an effort of American enterprise which we cannot permit to be crushed out by British jealousy. No matter what the origin or primary purposes of the colony may have been, in its present condition it is deserving of protection as an American effort in the right direction.

THE ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The question has been raised whether the approaching session of the Legislature is a *new* session, or whether it is a continuation of the session which adjourned in March last. In the language of the Constitution it is an "*adjourned* annual session," but whether an "adjourned" session is to be treated as the beginning of a new one or the continuation of an old one is the problem to be solved.

Our conviction is that, so far as the House of Representatives is concerned, the session of 1876 is but a continuation of the session of 1875, and that the officers then elected and the committees then appointed will continue to serve, the same as in the second session of Congress.

But with the Senate the case is different. The House of Representatives which will meet on the first Tuesday in January next is the same House (with the exception of three vacancies caused by death and since filled by election) which adjourned last March. It is unchanged in its make up and can resume business just where it left off. But the Senate which will meet at the same time is *not* the same body, in its membership, as that which adjourned last spring. Under the Constitution the terms of eleven of its then members have since come to an end, and eleven new Senators have been chosen to fill their places. The terms of these eleven Senators began on the 1st of this present December; and the Senate which meets in January next is therefore practically a new body, entitled to elect its own officers, and to begin its work *de novo*. Its old committees cannot resume work, because many of their members are not now members of the Senate; so that new committees will have to be appointed, as well as new officers elected. This will not occur again, and would not have occurred now but for the necessity of filling the places of those Senators who were elected under the old Constitution and whose terms expired before the time fixed for the first election of Senators for the regular terms fixed in the new Constitution.

The House, then, is a continuous body and meets next month in an adjourned session, going on with its work where it left off, if it chooses to do so; but the Senate is, for this once, a new body, and begins its work anew. At the adjourned session, which may meet in 1877, this difference between the two Houses will not exist; and after that period there will be no such thing possible as an adjourned annual session. The sessions will thereafter be biennial, or will be called sessions, restricted to the special work for which they may be called.

THE New York *Tribune*, referring to the St. Louis whisky ring developments, says that "the attempt to fasten some stain of complicity upon the President himself is wholly unwarranted by the facts thus far disclosed. Nor can it be said that the Republican party has shown the least sympathy for the participants in these crimes, or made the slightest effort to shield them or embarrass Secretary BRISTOW in his work of reform. On the whole, the Republican party will unquestionably gain by this exposure, as any party ought to gain which unflinchingly hunts down and punishes corruption of any form within its ranks. The credit is the greater in this case, because the guilty persons were prominent in the party and had been peculiarly influential. The spirit which refuses to grant them any shelter or mercy and demands full punishment according to the full letter of the law is the true spirit of reform." This is every word true; and we have only to add the stern exhortation of the President, "let no guilty man escape," even though he should be the Private Secretary of the President himself.

THE following appears in a Washington dispatch to an Eastern paper, under date of November 30th. Washington dispatches are poor authority for anything, in general, and we do not give this one as anything more than a current speculation. "Let every guilty man be punished."

"The general opinion here is that Babcock is seriously implicated in the whisky frauds, and a leading member of Congress from Missouri who is well informed on the subject expressed the opinion this evening that an indictment has been or will be found against Babcock. General Babcock's friends, however, declare that he is entirely innocent, and that he will be able to prove it when the opportunity shall be afforded him. It is also rumored in St. Louis that the name of Lieutenant Colonel Grant, the President's son, is included with the whisky ring, and the report is believed to be not altogether without foundation. His tender of his resignation in the army some time ago for the purpose of entering into the banking business in this city, but the limit allowed him by law in which it shall take effect has not yet expired."

NON-SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

Letter from Ex-Speaker Blaine.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 25, 1875.

The following letter was written by Mr. Blaine to a prominent Ohio gentleman just after the late election in that State. It is printed now with at least the implied consent of the writer:

AUGUSTA, MAINE, October 20, 1875.

MY DEAR SIR: The public school agitation in your late campaign is liable to break out elsewhere, and occurring first in one State and then in another, may keep the whole country in a ferment for years to come. This inevitably arouses sectarian feeling and leads to that bitterest and most deplorable of all strifes—the strife between religious denominations. It seems to me that this question ought to be settled in some definite and comprehensive way—and the only settlement that can be final is the complete victory for non-sectarian schools. I am sure this will be demanded by the American people at all hazards and at any cost.

The dread of sectarian legislation in this country has been felt many times in the past. It began very early. The first amendment of the Constitution, the joint product of Jefferson and Madison, proposed in 1789, declared that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the exercise thereof." At that time, when the powers of the Federal Government were untried and undeveloped, the fear was that Congress might be the source of danger to perfect religious liberty, and hence all power was taken from it. At the same time the States were left free to do as they pleased in regard to "an establishment of religion," for the tenth amendment, proposed by that eminent jurist, Theophilus Parsons, and adopted contemporaneously with the first, declared that "all powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

A majority of the people in any State in this Union can, therefore, if they desire it, have an established church—under which the minority may be taxed for the erection of church edifices which they never enter and for the support of creeds which they do not believe. This power was actually exercised in some of the States long after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and although there may be no positive danger of its revival in the future, the possibility of it should not be permitted. The auspicious time to guard against an evil is when all will unite in preventing it.

And in curing this constitutional defect all possibility of hurtful agitation on the school question should be ended also. Just let the old Jefferson-Madison amendment be applied to the States by adding the following to the inhibitory clauses in section 10, Article 1, of the Federal Constitution, viz:

"No State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and no money raised by taxation in any State for the support of public schools, or derived from any public fund therefor, shall ever be under the control of any religious sect, nor shall any money so raised ever be divided between religious sects or denominations."

This, you will observe, does not interfere with any State having just such a school system as its citizens may prefer—subject to the single and simple restriction that the schools shall not be made the arena for sectarian controversy or theological disputation. This adjustment, it seems to me, would be comprehensive and conclusive—and would be fair alike to Protestant and Catholic, to Jew and Gentile—leaving the religious faith and the conscience of every man free and unmolested.

Very sincerely yours,

J. G. BLAINE.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Philadelphia will run polyglot street cars next year.

"Bab" seems chalked for a cynosure on the tortuous scroll, sure.

Santa Claus is getting ready for his yearly game of old sledge.

The Comptroller of the Currency, in his report, Knox the opponents of the national banking system higher'n a kite.

Up in benighted New Hampshire they think it unbecoming a church member to lease a building for a dram shop.

Darwin would be delighted with the Washington correspondents, as a class. They are such prodigious tale-bearers.

A general feeling of insecurity prevails throughout New Mexico over the apprehended revolt of the Utes and Apaches.

It is said that Charles O'Connor, who now lies at the point of death, gave $35,000 for charitable purposes during the last year.

A meaty item. Last Saturday the shipments of meat from Chicago weighed 4,677,474 pounds, equal to 219 cars of ten tons each.

A sheriff and dogs are to be started out by Governor Allen in search of a man who will take the place of State Treasurer of Ohio.

A German woman died in Cincinnati on Tuesday of catalepsy, the effects of the bite of a rabid cat received two days previously.

This great honor was Henry Wilson's; that the atmosphere of love grew more dense about him the nearer he got to his home.

A man named Stohl has been arrested in Philadelphia for obtaining money under false pretenses; but he stohlidly insists that he never stohl it.

Indiana will next week visit Philadelphia in the person of her Editorial Association, to inspect the progress of the Centennial preparations.

The New York *Graphic* is authority for the statement that Susan B. Anthony has lost money in the oil region. She loved not wisely but two wells.

A seventy hundred weight meteorite, recently found in Greenland, is now on its way to Philadelphia for exhibition at the Centennial. It is a fight-stone.

Some important modifications in the regulations for transporting goods in bond to the interior and through Canada are soon to be made by the Treasury Department.

A prevalent form of theft in Boston is said to be the stealing of Sunday school children. Whole classes have, it is alleged, been transferred bodily from one school to another.

There is a movement on foot in Louisiana to fit out a vessel for the purpose of collecting varieties of the hardest sugar canes of South America and the Indias for culture in that State.

It appears that the first cause of the existing war in Liberia was that the Government wanted to put down the semi-slave trade carried on by the Cape Palmas natives with the interior.

It is proposed to purchase and remove to the Centennial grounds the house in which Horace Greeley was born. It stands on the old Greeley farm in Amherst, about five miles from Manchester, N. H.

Western pork-packers don't seem to credit the stories about hogs dying to such an alarming extent with cholera. They agree that the bulk of the packing will not be done until late in the season.

It is now explained that Poe and his biographer Griswold were passionate admirers of the same woman, and that Griswold was very jealous, which accounts for his savage strictures on the poet.

"Cornelius, thy prayer is heard." Vanderbilt University has already 200 students in its medical department, 150 in the literary department, thirty in the theological department, and twenty in the law department.

The Government has sixty-three war vessels ready for use, carrying 572 guns. In addition to these, there are eleven, classed as second and third rate, carrying 124 guns, which could be speedily placed in readiness for service.

The *Inter-Ocean* suggests that the bishop of the diocese in which Father Ryan, the Ohio Catholic priest, is in jail, charged with "shooting with intent to wound," should curse the jailer, and, if need be, the jail.

The West Virginia Legislature has adopted a design for a flag. It will be nine feet long, three feet wide, four diagonal bars, two red and two buff, with a white ground in the upper part of the right hand corner, with the State arms and motto in gilt.

PERSONAL.

The chief of the house of Astor now is John Jacob Astor, oldest son of the late William B. Astor. He served on General McClellan's staff, and has been for many years the active manager of the Astor property.

Ex-Governor Clifford, President of the Boston and Providence Railway, actually requests the directors to cut down his salary one-half rather than reduce the wages of the workmen on the road, and people begin to think him insane.

Senator Sharon is discoursed upon by a correspondent, who says: "There must be blood royal somewhere in the veins of a man who would so grandly come forward to shield from dishonor the memory of a dead friend, and who would do all that a man might do to soften the double blow of bereavement and fallen fortune."

Vice President Wilson, according to a Boston paper, visited a spiritual medium in Boston about three weeks before his death, and held communication with the dead wife and son, who informed him that he would soon be sick, and warned him to be extremely cautious in regard to mental labor, or he would speedily come to their side of life.

Two artists have lost their eye sight in painting the beautiful pictures in the basement of the Capitol. One, a German, and another, an impulsive Italian, who, helpless and lonely and starving, threw himself into the embrace of the "black flowing river," finding it warmer and more restful than the cold neglect and unissing charity of the world.

Major Ben. Perley Poore, the well-known journalist, has nearly completed a volume of great interest and value. It is a Centennial Congressional Directory, prepared upon the plan of the annual Directories of Congress, which, under the superintendence of Major Poore, have of late years become so complete. The volume will contain a biographical sketch of every member of each Congress from the first organization up to the fourth of July next. It will also contain a list and biography of the various Presidents and their Cabinet Ministers, and the Justices of the Supreme Court. Each Congress will be arranged by itself, and the members from each State in each Congress will appear by themselves. The political divisions of each House will also appear, as well as the politics of each member.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PROSE QUOTATIONS FROM SOCRATES TO MACAULEY. With Indexes. By S. Austin Allibone, Author of "A Critical Dictionary of English Literature, and British and American Authors," "Poetical Quotations from Chaucer to Tennyson," &c. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

A work of such magnitude requires careful examination to estimate its true value. It differs very materially from a compilation, and yet it belongs to that class of works. It could only be accomplished by a gifted mind, possessed with the "persevering grace of the saints," to patiently prepare the matter. None but a thoroughly bred scholar could have produced the work, and the nice discrimination and taste of Dr. Allibone is the result of culture and peculiar talents for such work. This volume is the third of a series of dictionaries projected by Dr. Allibone, a quarter of a century ago. The first "Dictionary of English Literature," second, "Poetical Quotations," and the third, "Prose Quotations," &c. While it is true that in preparing matter for one work, material could be gathered for others, this volume, however, deserves to stand upon its merits. The character of the subjects and authors, and the extensive range of the quotations, give the reader a fair idea of the wealth of matter the volume contains, and of its high tone. The volume includes 544 authors and 571 subjects, the quotations numbering 8,810. These three works would be almost equal to some libraries. The subjects are arranged in alphabetical order. We recognize the work as one of the best of the season. Among the authors quoted we name Addison, Johnson, Macauley, Robert Hall, Locke, Burke, Coleridge, South, Steele, Whately, Isaac Watts, Jeremy Taylor, Tillotson, Voltaire, Thomas à Kempis, Shakespeare, Wesley, Richardson, Kingsley, Pascal, Chancellor, Kent and Washington Allston.

THE MIND AND WORDS OF JESUS; Faithful Promiser, and Morning and Night Watches. By Rev. J. R. Macduff, D. D. Published by R. Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by W. W. Waters, Pittsburgh.

This work beautifully illustrates the wealth of thought and language of the gifted author. It is thoroughly permeated with the Gospel, and is calculated not only to instruct the reader, but point out the remedy in the Gospel. It combines three parts: "The Mind of Jesus," "The Words of Jesus," "The Faithful Promiser." "The Morning Watches" for the daylight and "the Night Watches" for the evening tend to increase the devotional spirit, and are excellent help for daily devotions. Without being gaudy, it is a capital work for gift purposes at this season, or any other special occasion.

SEVENOAKS. A Story of To-Day. By J. G. Holland, author of "Arthur Bonnicastle," etc. Published by Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Perhaps the chief merit of this romance is the thorough exposure of the shoddyism of the day and the over-reaching of merchants and others in trade. It is thoroughly American and is calculated to present an inside view of Eastern life. The characters are distinctly outlined, and the careful reader finds in it inviting bits of outdoor description. There is also a happy vein of sympathetic feeling. Dr. Holland enjoys worthily the reputation of the press, and "Sevenoaks" should be carefully read.

THE NEW DAY. A Poem in Songs and Sonnets. By Richard Watson Gilder. Published by Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., city.

We must confess at the outset, that these poems, termed, "A Poem in Songs and Sonnets," are the products of a singularly gifted mind, and the good features largely overbalance the defects that may strike the mind of some readers. The arrangement of these sonnets, and the illustrations of the peacock's tail to represent the sun, give significance to the name. The poem appears fragmentary, made up of nearly sixty separate pieces, chiefly sonnets and brief songs, but there is under lying the whole a mystic tie, which binds them together. The grand motive of Mr. Gilder is to portray the passion of human love. Familiar as the theme is, the popular ear is not likely to be attracted, but many a cultured mind, tributary to the power of song, will feel enriched by their perusal. Well may the New York *Evening Post* say: "The poems are indeed beautiful. We cannot turn these pages without being caught in the meshes of all sorts of sweet pains and lovely thoughts. Their artistic quality, their inner music, their spiritual knowledge, their passion and their purity are altogether remarkable. Few sermons can go as deep or as far as such poems, or make so attractive the high places of thought and virtue." Take this "Song" as a specimen of beautiful versification:

Not from the whole wide world I chose thee—
Not apart, light of the land and the sea!
The wide, wide world could not contain thee,
For thou art the whole wide world to me.

Here is a "Song" of rare sweetness and melody.

Years have flown since I knew thee first,
And I know thee of old at the first sweet sight,
And thou art strange to me love, to-night.

The same thought is expressed in:

Thus, Love, it was, I did forget thy face
As sleeper into thy deep soul I went:
Vague in my mind it grew till, in its place,
One that I knew not from my own was sent.

Mr. Gilder, we believe, is Dr. Holland's assistant in the editorial management of *Scribner's Monthly*, and heretofore only known as a graceful writer of prose.

TALES OF THE ARGONAUTS AND OTHER SKETCHES. By Bret Harte. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Despite the censorious criticisms upon Mr. Harte's writings, it must be conceded that he possesses a mind of singular power, and readers almost unconsciously are carried away by the magnetic influence of his writings. The style and matter could not well be otherwise, as his stories are permeated with the wild adventures of that far off State (California), where society is strongly impressed by the ruder class of people. The lapse of years is tending down his writings to the more advanced views of the East than of the Pacific coast. The book will have a wide circulation. There are eight tales, as follows: The Rose of Toulumme, John Oakhurst, Wan Lee, Old Man Plunkett, The Fool of Five Forks, Baby Sylvester and an Episode of Fiddletown, with one of a Jersey centenarian.

THE MASQUE OF PANDORA AND OTHER POEMS. By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., city.

Longfellow's poems occupy the top rung of the ladder of poetic fame. The chief poem of this volume is the "Masque of Pandora," comprising fifty-two pages, which gives a picture of Pandora's box. This poem represents the story of Pandora, who had married Epimetheus. In his palace was an oaken chest, with words carved thereon, which she was forbidden to open. Curiosity getting the better of her, she lifted the lid and out sprang a dense mist. "The Hanging of the Crane," published last season as a holiday gift book, and beautifully illustrated, is the second, and "Morituri Salutamus" is reproduced. These three poems occupy 99 pages, and the remainder of the volume by short pieces. The popularity of Mr. Longfellow will be increased by the publication of this volume.

POLITICAL.

State.

The St. Louis *Times* don't want Jerry Black for President; because, like that other Jeremiah, he indulges too much in lamentations.

It transpires that after all the Democrats of Pennsylvania have a candidate for the Presidency. The Pittsburgh *Post* nominates Jeremiah S. Black. This is a very strange nomination, however, within a month the Pittsburgh organ has been advocating the success of an inflation platform, and the Democratic party of the State cast an immense vote in favor of it. Now an out and out hard money ite is suggested for the Presidency. The nomination would hardly prove popular in Pennsylvania.—*Williamsport Gazette.*

General.

Governor Allen, on Monday, appointed J. Minor Milliken, of Hamilton, the Treasurer-elect, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of State Treasurer Welch.

Looking upon Secretary Chandler's cleaning out of the Interior Department, without fuss or any loud promises, and then looking at Governor Tilden's fuss and loud promises, without any cleaning out, the Buffalo *Express* is moved to exclaim: "Oh, for a Zach. Chandler at Albany!"

It is reported that President Grant has determined to remove E. P. Dunne, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona Territory, because, being a Roman Catholic, he has in public speeches indicated his desire that his sect shall have a share of the common school fund set apart for their special control.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* wants the Ohio Democrats to open the Centennial campaign early by holding their State Convention on Washington's birthday—February 22d. This year they tried the Bunker Hill centennial anniversary, thinking the prestige of that historic semi-mage would give them a "send off" that would ensure a sweeping victory. Now let them try the natal day of the Father of his Country and see if they will have any better luck.—*Cleveland Herald.*

Governor Tilden, under an act of the last Legislature, has appointed the following gentlemen a commission to devise a plan for the government of cities: William M. Evarts, of New York; Samuel Hand, of Albany, E. L. Godkin, of New York; Edward Cooper, of New York; Martin B. Anderson, of Rochester; John A. Lott, of Brooklyn; James B. Carter, of New York; Oswald Ottendorfer, of New York; William Allen Butler, of Yonkers; Simon Stern, of New York; Joshua M. Van Cott, and Henry F. Dimock, of Brooklyn.—*New York Evening Post.*

North Cornwall Furnace, in Lebanon county, Pa., is still working light ores and averaging a daily cast of iron of about 17 tons. Bird Coleman Furnace is still out of blast and no definite time appointed when the fires will be lighted.

The Evil Fruits of Weak Digestion.

There is no pathological fact more clearly ascertained than that the most formidable phases of nervous disease are directly traceable to imperfect digestion. Insomnia, with its train of direful consequences, proceeds more frequently from weakness of the stomach than from any other cause. Mere sedatives are powerless to cure nervousness, and soon cease to palliate its symptoms. The true way to strengthen the nervous system is to invigorate the digestive and assimilative organs, upon whose unobstructed action its equilibrium is absolutely dependent. The daily use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will do more to brace and soothe the weakened and irritated nerves, and induce sound, refreshing sleep—nature's grand catholicon—than all the so-called nervines to be found in the pharmacopœia or out of it. A wine glassfull of the Bitters should be taken before each meal.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, December 2, 1875.

The ease in monetary affairs heretofore noted was the leading feature again to-day, a considerable number of the banks reporting unemployed fundson hand to some amount. Prime business paper is therefore in demand and first-class borrowers would not have much trouble in obtaining loans at easy rates. But paper of such character as the banks want is not offering in large amounts, and the consequence is that money is accumulating faster than it is going out. Bankers will not touch second-class bills and look coldly on the applications of parties from a distance whose credit is good where it is known. Real estate mortgages could be placed readily on unencumbered property, but little of that class of securities is to be had. The prospects seem to indicate a rather quiet and apathetic money market for sometime to come, and it looks as if the next bank statement will show even an increase in funds on hand over that of October. Eastern exchange continues in light supply, and some of the leading banks were shipping currency to New York to-day, against which to draw their bills. We learned of no actual transactions in drafts on New York above par, but they were undoubtedly worth about 1.20 per cent. premium in transactions between the banks, and 1.20@1.10 per cent. to customers and outsiders.

—We may expect a continuance of the present condition of plethora, varied possibly by occasional periods of activity such as that experienced during the past sixty days, until capitalists and men of property gain confidence enough to realize the fact that the present is a favorable time for investment in projects of extension and development. Every department of our industrial interests has touched bottom—is down to hard pan, to use a familiar expression; and at such a time investors have nothing to lose and everything to gain by the pursuit of a judicious policy of extension. We do not mean that any one should rush blindly into enterprises having no just foundation in the needs of business, or that the doors of credit should, as in the old days, be thrown open to every adventurer who has a scheme with which to gull the public; but that a judicious inquiry for purposes of legitimate investment, will develop opportunities for the safe and remunerative employment of funds, we firmly believe. The capitalists who realize this fact the soonest, will be those who realize the greatest advantages from the return of activity which will be experienced during the Centennial year of 1876.

—We have received the following communication from a prominent firm of this city concerning the question of postdated checks and their protest:

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

We wish to suggest a different opinion concerning the maturity of a check which has been dated ahead, from that you give in reply to your Meadville correspondent. Our theory is that the check being dated on a legal holiday—say November 25th—should fall due November 24th. This would be true if the check were dated at any previous date upon such time as would make it due on the 25th; but when the check itself is not dated until the 25th, which was the statement of our correspondent, your theory seems to involve the absurdity of a paper becoming effective before it is written. Our theory is that such checks are of no legal value whatever, until after the date on which their face indicates they are written. In the course of our business we have received a great many such checks, and, acting upon the theory above given, have always declined to give receipts for them until the date arrived when they claimed to have been made.

The question referred to, is one that has never been adjudicated upon and may never be, and there is reason and justice in the view of the case suggested above. Still it is the opinion of competent jurists that the act of April 2, 1873, quoted in our issue of the 1st, would apply in this case. There is, however, room for doubt, and we can see valid reasons for which a banker might refuse to pay a check dated on November 25th and presented on November 24th. Perhaps the safest and most cautious course in a case of this kind would be to protest both before and after the holiday—although it is held by many authorities that protest is not an essential in the case of any dishonored check.

It will be seen that that the whole subject of post-dated checks is involved in absurdities and self-contradictions like that pointed out by our correspondents. This is the necessary result of the treatment of a subject which is *per se* an anomaly. The theory suggested above that a post-dated check has no legal character whatever until its date matures, is doubtless correct and the practice of declining to receipt for checks until the date at which they appear to have been made, is a commendable one. The practice of drawing post-dated checks should be discouraged. It is a vicious and injurious one, and is the result of ignorance and carelessness among the business classes. If a check must be drawn payable at a future date, let it show that fact by the presence on its face, both of the date when it is made, as well as that when it is payable; in which case it will have a legal status and value. Such a course would do away with the vexatious and doubtful questions which are constantly arising from the present pernicious and absurd form of drawing post-dated checks.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 2, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	115½	115	114¾	115	114¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coupons	116½				
5-20's, 1865	116⅞				
5-20's, 1865, new	119¼				
5-20's, 1867, registered	119¾				
5-20's, 1867	120				
5-20's, 1868	122⅜				
10-40's	117				
10-40's, coupons	117				
Currency 6's	122				
6's of 5 per cents	106⅜				
Western Union Tel		75¼	75¾	75⅝	75¾
Quicksilver		23½	23½	23½	23½
Pacific Mail		41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Panama			125		125
Adams Express			102		101
Wells-Fargo Express			81		80½
American Express			60⅝		
U. S. Express			51		50
New-York Central			104¾		105¼
Erie		15¾	15¾		15¾
Michigan Central		99	99	99¼	99
Michigan Southern		92¾	93¼	93	93¼
Illinois Central			130		130
Cleve. & Pittsburgh			90¾		90¾
Chicago & Northwestern		39½	39½	39½	39
Do preferred			58¾	58¾	58¾
Rock Island			105¾		105¾
St. Paul, common					
Do preferred		64¼		64¾	65
Wabash, common					5
Fort Wayne		92	17½	18¼	17½
Ohio & Mississippi					17½
Union Pacific					34¾
Hannibal & St. Joe		21¼	20	21¼	20½
Do preferred					25¾
C. C. & I. C.				45	
Missouri Pacific					12¾
South Carolina, April			22		
South Carolina, July			22		
Missouri 6's			102		

—The attempt to secure united action by the Brooklyn savings banks in reducing the rate of interest on deposits to five per cent. has apparently failed. There have been no signs among them of the weakness that has brought down nearly half a dozen New York banks at once. But it probably fell that it would not be safe to unsettle depositors by any change in the rate of interest. The rumor that such a change was to be made has already resulted in the withdrawal of hundreds of small accounts. The older banks state that they have only a medium difficulty in finding profitable investment for their funds, as they have put most of them in long-seven per cent. interest-bearing United States bonds.

—New York papers agree that Wall street interests were never more mercilessly controlled than now by the selfish plans of overshadowing operators and cliques. The big fish are eating up all the small ones, and some of the most valuable corporate property in the country is being kicked about like a football at the whim of individual players. The New York *Herald* describes the ceaseless fluctuations to which stocks are subject:

It was not long ago reported that the treasury of the Lake Shore Railway Company was loaded down with surplus cash, whereupon up jumped the price of the stock about 10 per cent., irrespective of the fact that the company's payments on account of interest months of November, December and January aggregated over $1,000,000. On the authority of a financial journal it now appears that the company has recently increased the issue of its second consolidated mortgage bonds $600,000. Again, within the past week it was reported that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company had in its treasury over $500,000, which, being immediately set down as applicable to a dividend, caused a demand for the preferred stock, carrying up the price about 2 per cent., but still lacking that on the 1st of January the company requires over $700,000 for the payment of interest.

—The Merchants' National Bank of Boston is said to have about $7,000,000 of the funds of the city of Boston on deposit. The Boston *Post* of the 27th inst. refers to this subject:

The deposits of the Merchants' National Bank, Boston, now foot up nearly $10,000,000; the figure reported at the beginning of this week were $9,952,000. It is clear that it has been stated at the City Hall that nearly $7,000,000 of the above belong to the city—the amount being unusually large, owing to the heavy payments recently made into the Treasury on account of taxes, and that it is also proposed by some to divide the city deposits among several banks, in proportion to the size, no one institution being allowed to exceed one-half of its capital. It is not yet known what the responsibilities are in regard to the matter, for everybody admits that the Merchants' Bank has done promptly, fairly and squarely all it has agreed to do, and it has the largest capital of any Boston bank.

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 114¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 2.—Money 5@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 7@8 per cent. Customs receipts $300,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $1,200,000. Clearings $23,000,000. Sterling quiet at 483@484.

Gold opened and closed at at 114¾. Bids was the lowest price, the highest having been 115¼. Rates paid for carrying were 3, 4, 2, 2¾ and 1 per cent.; loans also made flat.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm on a small business. Railroad bonds firm and higher. Chicago and North-western consolidated bonds and common bonds advanced to six ex-dividend. Milwaukee and St. Paul consolidated sinking funds to 81¾ and Michigan Central sevens to 101. Chicago, Burlington and Quincy eights brought 118. Harlem registered firsts 113, Central Pacific 105½, Union Pacific firsts 103 and sinking funds 94½. State bonds steady. The *Commercial* says the Messrs. Rothschild were unable to-day to get withdrawal for all the new syndicate 5 per cents from the New York market. They look for letters rates abroad for the small remnant of this loan. Stocks opened strong and higher with an advance of from ¼ to 1¾ per cent. the latter for Lake Shore. Central Pacific sold at 90, a decline of from ¼ to ½ per cent., but at the close the market was strong and higher with a recovery of from ¼ to 1 per cent. from the lowest point of the afternoon. Lake Shore advanced to 79¾, Michigan Central to 99, Northwestern common to 68, preferred to 84, St. Paul to 65¾, Pacific Mail to 41, Western Union to 75¾, Hannibal and St. Joseph common to 21¾ and preferred to 26¾. Union Pacific closed steady at 86@86¾. Chicago and Mississippi reported to 17½. The transfer of the leading lines of railroads shows a large gain for November. The N. Y. Central and Hudson River road only a medium while the Northwestern showed an increase of $4,000 for the three weeks and $43,000 for the month. The traffic on the Union Pacific for November was very heavy, and nearly all Western roads show an improvement. Transactions at the Stock Exchange 153,000 shares, of which 26,000 were Pacific Mail, 20,000 Western Union, 4,400 Northwestern common, 2,000 St. Paul common, 2,000 preferred, 3,000 Erie, 5,000 Pacific Mail, 1,000 St. Joseph, 2,000 Lake Shore, 4,000 Ohio and Mississippi, 4,000 Union Pacific and 7,800 Michigan Central.

The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	75¾	St. Paul	38¾
Pacific Mail	41	Do preferred	65¾
Atlantic & Pacific	10½	Toledo & Wabash	5
Wells Fargo Ex	82	Do preferred	7
American Ex	60	Fort Wayne	92
United States Ex	51	Terre Haute	5
New York Central	105¾	Do preferred	19½
Erie	15¾	Chicago & Alton	88
Do preferred	25	Do preferred	105
Harlem	123½	Ohio & Mississippi	17½
Do preferred	131	Illinois Central	130
Mich. Central	99	Burling'n & Qu'cy	114½
Lake Shore	79¾	Hannibal & St. Joe	21
Illinois Central	92½	Delaware & Lack	119½
Cleveland & Pitts	90	Atlantic & Pac Tel	18¾
Northwestern	68	Union Pac. stock	89
Do Preferred	82	Central Pac. bds	105¾
N. J. Central	104½	Union Pac. bds	105
Rock Island	105¾		

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	123¾	New 5's	117½
5-20's, 1865, c	119¾	10-40's	116¾
5-20's, 1865, new	120¾	10-40's coupons	117¾
5-20's, 1867	122¼	Currency 6's	122
5-20's, 1868	122¾		

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	46	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	44½	Missouri 6's	102¾
Virginia, new	38		

LONDON, December 2, 5 P. M.—The setting day's stock exchange business was thoroughly forth rather more than a usual number of failures. The largest was that of Baggiotte Bros., stock and share brokers. The liabilities are estimated at $850,000. There were five other failures of lesser importance. The bullion in the Bank of England increased £115,000 the past week. The amount withdrawn on balance by the public was £200,000. The proportion of reserve to the liabilities is now 35¾ per cent. Consols for money 93 17-16; for account 93 5-16. United States bonds of 1885, 105¾; do 1867, 109¾; do 10-40's, 105¾; new 5's, 104¼. Railroad securities—New York Central 98; Erie 14¾; preferred 29.

PARIS, December 2.—The specie in the Bank of France has increased 2,378,000 francs during the present week. Rentes 60 francs 20 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 2.—United States Bonds—New 5's, 99¾.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 2, 1875.

There was rather more life in trade to-day, and sales of the principal articles were not large, there was a moderate trade in nearly all grades, somewhat increased over the average dullness that has ruled for the past week. A quiet feeling continues to pervade values, and there is little alteration to note in prices, except a stronger feeling and an advance of ½c in coffee.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	1,487	Apples, bbls	138
Cheese, lbs	41,416	Corn, bbls	1,080
Butter, pkgs	48	Wheat, bus	1,080
Bacon, lbs	33,810	Barley, bus	120
Potatoes, bus	1,347	Rye, bus	1,560
Hay, bales	104	Oats, bus	2,051

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Breadstuffs and Produce.

GRAIN—There was a steady but rather quiet market at former quotations. Wheat continues in demand for prime grades, although so much of the offerings are poor in quality as to affect quotations. We quote Michigan white wheat at $1 40@1 42 ₱ bushel; Pennsylvania and Ohio do $1 35@1 37; prime sound red winter $1 30@1 33; low grade do $1 20@1 25; rejected do $1 10@1 15, as to quality. Corn in moderate demand with prices only a medium supply. We quote shelled at 60@65c ₱ bushel for prime yellow; 58@60c for high mixed; 62@63c for low mixed; ear corn, 64@67 ₱ bushel for prime yellow on track; 60@63c for mixed; new car contracts easy at 55@57c for mixed; 48@50c for choice yellow. Oats were steady with only a moderate demand and a rather limited supply. We quote Western white at 42@43c ₱ bushel; Ohio and Pennsylvania do, 40@41c; dark to light mixed 38@39c. Barley is moving slowly at depressed prices. We quote Canada at $1 30@1 35 ₱ bushel; choice spring at $1 25@1 28; common to prime do $1 20@1 25; choice fall $1 10@1 15; low grades do 90@$1 05. Rye is rather sluggish and easy at 85@90c ₱ bushel for prime. Jobbing prices of corn and oats rule 5@6c above quotations.

FLOUR—The market is steady and unchanged. We quote the wholesale prices of the local millers as follows: No. 1 white wheat flour, $5 00 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber do $5 50; red winter flour $7 25; in sacks 50c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are steady as follows: Minnesota brands of white winter wheat flour $7 50@8 00; well known brands of family flour $7 25; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 75. Minnesota $7 25; best St. Louis $8 25@8 50; new red winter wheat flour is active at $6 25@6 50; Graham flour $7 00@7 25; self-rising flour, in 5 ₱ packages, $5 @6 00. In packages; cornmeal 50c ₱ bushel; oatmeal $7 00 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 50@4 00; buckwheat $5 25 ₱ bbl.

APPLES—The trade is confined to jobbing transactions from store, which were in fair volume at steady prices. Choice cooking apples sell $3 50@4 00 ₱ barrel; large cooking $2 25@3 00; common to medium grades in light demand at $2 00@3 00.

BUTTER—There is a good inquiry for prime table grades and values continue steady at former prices. We quote prime to choice dairy at 2@3c; fair to good 25@26c; common to fair 17@20c.

CHEESE—The demand is moderate and prices easy. We quote prime Ohio factory at 14@14½c; New York Goshen 14½@15c; Sweitzer 16@18c; Limberger 14@15c.

EGGS—There is some what improved supply and quotations are a shade off from the extreme high prices obtained in the early part of the week. We quote fresh at 38@39c ₱ dozen; packed are in fair supply at 24@25c.

POTATOES—The demand is moderate and prices easy. We quote prime Ohio factory at 1½@1

CITY MATTERS

FOR eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV. } Room 53, First National Bank; PITTSBURGH, PA., December 2, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	WIND. Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	30 327	33	60	E.	Fresh.	Clear
2 P. M.	30 313	36	53	W.	Fresh.	Clear.
9 P. M.	30.314	29	67	E.	Fresh.	Clear.

Mean barometer...30.317 Highest thermom....37
Mean thermom.... 29 Lowest thermom....20

Suit for the Custody of Children.

Gustavus Langenheim obtained a writ of *habeas corpus* upon his divorced wife, Christina Langenheim, requiring her to produce in court four children named William, Catherine, Gustavus and Albert, aged eleven and a half, nine, seven and four years, respectively. The parties were before Judge Sterrett, yesterday, but the case was not concluded. Mr. Langenheim desires possession of the children, which the mother resists on the ground that he is not a fit person to have charge of them.

Death of Mr. Samuel Dempster.

Mr. Samuel Dempster, a worthy and respected citizen of Braddock borough, and father of Mr. A. Dempster, City Engineer, died at his residence on Wednesday, at the ripe age of sixty-six years. The deceased had been in ill health for some time, and about three weeks since had a surgical operation performed, which, for a time, promised beneficial results. He took a relapse, however, and the best surgical skill failed to afford him relief. He was a most estimable gentleman, and his death will be sincerely regretted. His funeral will take place this afternoon.

Fatal Accident.

An accident occurred about ten o'clock yesterday morning on the Connelsville Railroad, near McKeesport, which caused the instant death of Samuel Verner, a coal teamster. The deceased, it appears, was driving his coal wagon across the track, when the Uniontown accommodation came along, the cowcatcher striking the wagon, carrying it along the track a distance of a hundred yards. The driver, Verner, was struck on the head and instantly killed. The horses, although stripped of their harness, were not seriously injured. Mr. Verner was a resident of Versailles township, and leaves a wife and five or six children. The Coroner will hold an inquest to-day at eleven A. M.

Fair and Supper at Wilkinsburg.

A fair for the benefit of the Children's Missionary Band connected with the Wilkinsburg Presbyterian church, and a supper in aid of the contingent fund of the congregation, will be given on Friday (to-morrow) evening, commencing at six o'clock, in the basement of the church. The ladies of the congregation have been making preparations for this event for some time past, and a very enjoyable time is anticipated. Tickets of admission, including supper, can be had for fifty cents. Those who desire to attend from this city, can take the 5.06 or 5.41 train, and return after the entertainment. The price of admission to the fair has been fixed at a merely nominal figure, and there will doubtless be a large attendance of old and young.

Died of His Injuries.

William Douglass, the colored man who had his leg crushed by car bumpers, Tuesday night at the Allegheny outer depot, died yesterday morning at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. The physicians who amputated his leg, Drs. Hamilton and McCann, stated that the amputation or crushing of his limb was not the cause of his death, but that having been an inebriate for some time, and being heavily under the influence of liquor at the time of the accident, they would attribute his demise to *delirium tremens*, or over indulgence in stimulants of a cheapand poisonous kind. The deceased was twenty-eight years of age, and leaves a wife. An inquest will be held this evening at seven o'clock.

Ungrateful Tramps.

Two able-bodied tramps applied for something to eat the other day at the residence of a telegraph operator at Mills Station, on the Connelsville Railroad. They were provided with victuals, and after appeasing their hunger they expressed their willingness to perform any work which their hospitable entertainer might desire. They were at once taken at their word, and were set to work at digging a drain. When they had nearly completed their work, a small boy remarked to them that they were working very cheap, as a near neighbor had a few days before paid a good sum of money for a similar job. Those tramps then threw down their tools and departed, declaring in no outrage to have them working for their board. That night somebody filled up that drain, tramping the dirt down as solidly as possible. That telegraph operator says tramps are ungrateful wretches.

The Suits Against Howard & Son.

The affidavits of P. H. Laufman, Thomas Mitchell and John Kinlon have been filed in the Common Pleas Court No. 1, in the case of P. H. Laufman & Bro. vs. C. Howard & Son. The proceeding is to test the sygersship to personal property used in the construction of Hiland avenue reservoir. Jacob H. Walter, who had the contract assigned to him, claims the property, by purchase at Sheriff's sale, while Mr. Laufman and other creditors think it legally belongs to Howard & Son. The affidavit of Mr. Laufman sets forth that the Sheriff's sale to Walter was a fraud, made for the purpose of hindering and delaying the creditors. The defendants, while contractors of the Hiland avenue reservoir, contracted a large indebtedness, the greater part of which had matured and was maturing in the fall of 1874. At that time the defendants believing themselves unable without further extension of credit to pay their debts, it was proposed by Walter to take a lease of the property; but this scheme was abandoned on account of the liability of the property to be taken in execution by creditors of defendants in satisfaction of their debts. On the 9th of September, 1874, the personal property was sold at Sheriff's sale, on execution issued on the suit of the Duquesne Bank. Mr. Laufman says that the claimant, Walter, did not desire the sale to have publicity, and that soon after the handbill was put up he ordered it to be torn down, which was done. He says that there were but one or two parties there beside Walter, the Deputy Sheriff and the representative of the Duquesne Bank. The latter, he states, was induced by Mr. Walter not to bid on the property by the promise that the latter would pay the bank's claim. It is alleged that as a result of Walter's efforts to avoid notoriety, the property sold for about a tenth of its value. It is further claimed that the matter of the sale was previously agreed upon between Walter and the defendants, and that the property was the first for by Howard & Son's own money, and consequently the sale was not a *bona fide* one.

The affidavits of Mitchell and Kinlon are in effect the same.

Real Estate Transfers.

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The following deeds were recorded in the office by R. J. Richardson, Recorder:

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Mary A. Harber to Sarah A. Fowhi, November 10, 1875; lot McClure township, Allegheny City.....$1,300 00
Sheriff Hare to S. B. Smith, October 22, 1875; lot James street, Allegheny City, 30x203 feet.....$114 05
John Wilkinson, uxr. of G. Dravo, to James McCaffrey, November 3, 1875; lot Thirty-eighth and George Shiras, Esq., of Allegheny county.....$2,000 00
Milton McClain to James A. Stewart November 10, 1875; lot borough of Sharpsburg, Allegheny.....$1 00

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Committee Meeting—Appointments to the Force.

A regular monthly meeting of the Police Committee was held last evening, Mr. Thomson presiding.

The Mayor reported that five men had been dismissed from the force and none had resigned during November. Received and filed.

Appointments to the sub-list by the Mayor were announced, and the following were confirmed:

Amos Hank, John J. Elliott, Chas. Kirkpatrick, Michael Murphy, E. S. Phillips, David Wilkerson, Andrew Knox, Conrad Sill, David Culnaman.

The pay roll for November, amounting to $15,545 97, was approved.

Mr. Braun, from the sub-committee on Central station, reported that a number of small articles were needed at the station house, and on motion he was directed to procure the supplies.

The special committee appointed to examine and report upon the advisability of furnishing protection from the weather for policemen stationed on the South Side, recommended that a shed be built for their accommodation at the Point bridge grade on Carson street, but no action was taken.

On motion adjourned.

CITY POOR.

Meeting of the Board of Guardians—Reports of Officers—Interesting Statistics.

The Board of Guardians of the Poor of this city met yesterday afternoon. Present: Messrs. Boggs, Douglass, Fitzsimmons, Glass, Hays, Hazlett, Jones, Mercer, Schaffer, Sweitzer and President Kincaid.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting, B. C. Sawyer, Esq., member elect to fill vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. R. H. Hartley, presented his credentials. The credentials were accepted and Mr. Sawyer being qualified by Alderman Mercer, was duly admitted to a seat in the Board.

The question of the payment of the old warrant for $1,000, said to belong to the ex-Secretary, Mr. Fortune, was taken up. Mr. Hays moved that a new warrant be drawn for the amount. A new member, Mr. Sawyer, being present, at the request of the President Mr. Sweitzer explained the matter as heretofore published.

Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Douglass in the chair, made a further explanation. He believed, from all the evidence he could gain, that the money belonged to Mr. Fortune.

After some discussion, an amendment by Mr. Fitzsimmons that the matter be referred to the Solicitor for investigation and report, was adopted. It was also decided to hold a special meeting to settle the matter.

STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER.

Superintendent Bullock reported a total in the sims house November 1st of 331. The arrivals during the month were 15 males, 26 females, a total of 41. There were 6 discharged, 3 eloped and 3 deaths, leaving 360 November 30th, an increase of 29.

Tramps were accommodated as follows: With lodgings, 288; with meals, 576.

Dr. Purviance, physician of the First district, reported 93 visits and 65 office patients during November.

Dr. McCandless, physician of the Second district, reported 86 visits and 22 office patients.

Dr. Chesarown, of the South Side, reported 29 visits and 42 office patients.

Dr. Brewster, Physician of the Almshouse, reported as follows: Patients in Hospital November 1, 1875, 29; received during the month, 31; died, including one premature birth, 3; discharged, 24; received medical attendance, 60; in hospital November 30, 1875, 33.

The births during the month were: male of Emma Jones, November 12th, and female of Sarah McGinnis. The deaths were: child of Emma Jones, November 16, Frederick Wilt, November 30th, of typhoid fever, and John Moul, November 17th, of phthisis.

The diseases treated during the month were: Scarlatina, typhoid fever, pneumonitis, dysentery, diarrhea, neuralgia, phthisis, rheumatism, syphilis, sciatica, dyspepsia, organic heart disease, deusentia, ulcus and obstetric cases.

The reports were all accepted and ordered to be filed.

The circular of Secretary McConnigle, of the Allegheny Poor Board, with reference to a convention to take action upon the subject of tramps was read, adopted and the President was authorized to make arrangements on the part of this Board.

Mr. Schafer called attention to an article in the *Dyrchief's Freund*, wherein it is charged that a German woman had been ill treated at the Alms House recently. On motion, the matter was referred to the monthly committee.

On motion of Mr. Mercer, the claim of Dr. Riggs for services to a poor woman was referred to the monthly committee.

Bills to the amount of $2,080 92 were ordered to be paid.

Adjourned.

SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.

Proposed Unity of Action in Charitable Effort.

We have in our two cities a number of most active and efficient benevolent associations, without whose dispensations the condition of many families, especially during the winter months, would be lamentable indeed. The food clothing, fuel, medicine, and other necessaries which they supply, make a very large aggregate; and the money which they collect to purchase supplies is an item of no inconsiderable magnitude. From the very fact that there are so many associations engaged in the work of relieving the poor, the means of ascertaining who are actually in want, and the methods of supplying these wants, are necessarily imperfect. As each society is only concerned about those under its immediate care, it is impossible to guard against imposition on the part of professional beggars, who solicit aid from all sources accessible to them, and make an excellent thing out of the day's work. We have had experience in dispensing alms, admit that, with all the care they can command, unworthy persons will succeed in getting a share—and sometimes a large share, too.

In view of these facts, all who are interested in the relief of the poor, and especially those who contribute to its support, will be pleased to learn that a number of our most humane and charitable citizens are now considering a plan for securing unity of action in benevolent efforts throughout the two cities. A Board of United Charities will be formed, a central office established, and regulations made whereby the finding out of those in want, and the granting of relief, will be systematic, and at the same time comprehensive. It is believed that by unity of action the deserving poor will be better reached, while skilled impostors and mendicants will be at once detected and withdrawn from the benefit of any of the societies.

Each society in this Union will act as usual with its beneficiaries, but record their names at the Central Bureau, so that from inspection it will be seen just how many societies are assisting the same recipient and thus prevent overlapping of charitable efforts with the consequent unnecessary expense and liability to imposition. The details are not yet determined upon, but the movement is in excellent hands, and will be consummated in time for this winter's charitable operations—at least it is hoped so.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

John S. McCabe vs. M. S. O'Donnell, Luzerne county. The debtor was adjudged bankrupt, and the matter referred to Register Willard.

Jacob Shirk, bankrupt, Venango county. An order was made for the sale of certain real estate by public auction.

George Fuller, Venango county, bankrupt. An order was made for the sale of certain real estate, notes, judgments, and debts on open accounts.

William H. Mechling, bankrupt, Pittsburgh. The appeal of Joseph H. Gray, trustee of the Weekly Savings Bank, from the judgment of this Court in refusing to dissolve the injunction, presented and allowed.

Butler, Broome & Clapp vs. Isaac Michalisky, Clarion county. Leave was granted the petitioners to discontinue the proceedings.

Kneedler, Patterson & Co. *et al.* vs. Willian Armagast, Center county. Petition in bankruptcy filed and the usual order granted, returnable on the 10th inst.

Powell, Gregg & Co., debtors, Washington county. An injunction was granted on John Paxton & Co. *et al.*

L. Willard Grubbs & Co., debtors, Pittsburgh. An application took place on the motion for the adjudication of Grubbs by Mr. Parker, and for D. F. Patterson against the same. The Court reserved its decision.

Further argument took place on the bill in equity in the case of Josiah Peiffer and Samuel Richards vs. J. C. Brown, collector, and J. H. Culbertson, deputy collector, for an injunction and other relief, by David Reed, Esq., against the same, and by Mr. Pettis, for the said applicant. The Court reserved its decision.

U. S. Circuit Court—Judge McKennan.

The case of Shafer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company went to the jury yesterday, after an able speech for the defense by John H. Hampton, Esq. The jury retired, after receiving the charge of the Court, and were not again heard from, except to order supper, lodging and breakfast.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The next case taken up was that of L. C. Cruse vs. the Kittanning Coal Company. This is an action of ejectment to recover possession of 427 acres of land lying partly in Cambria and partly in Blair counties, the title to which plaintiff claims is in him through the heirs of Gen. Cadwallader. George L. Crawford, of Philadelphia, Col. R. B. Roberts, of Chicago, and George Shiras, Esq., of Allegheny county.....$2,000 00
Milton McClain to James A. Stewart November 10, 1875; lot borough of Sharpsburg, Allegheny.....$1 00

The next case taken up was that of Frederick Wilt vs. Robert Patterson. This is an action of trespass to recover damages for the alleged illegal cutting of timber on the plaintiff's land in Fayette county. The jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff for $1,000.

The next case taken up was that of Thomas Mitchell and John Kinlon have been filed in the Common Pleas Court No. 1, in the case of P. H. Laufman & Bro. vs. C. Howard & Son. The proceeding is to test the sygership to personal property used in the construction of Hiland avenue reservoir. Jacob H. Walter, who had the contract assigned to him, claims the property, by purchase at Sheriff's sale, while Mr. Laufman and other creditors think it legally belongs to Howard & Son. The affidavit of Mr. Laufman sets forth that the Sheriff's sale to Walter was a fraud, made for the purpose of hindering and delaying the creditors. The defendants, while contractors of the Hiland avenue reservoir, contracted a large indebtedness, the greater part of which had matured and was maturing in the fall of 1874. At that time the defendants believing themselves unable without further extension of credit to pay their debts, it was proposed by Walter to take a lease of the property; but this scheme was abandoned on account of the liability of the property to be taken in execution by creditors of defendants in satisfaction of their debts. On the 9th of September, 1874, the personal property was sold at Sheriff's sale, on execution issued on the suit of the Duquesne Bank. Mr. Laufman says that the claimant, Walter, did not desire the sale to have publicity, and that soon after the handbill was put up he ordered it to be torn down, which was done. He says that there were but one or two parties there beside Walter, the Deputy Sheriff and the representative of the Duquesne Bank. The latter, he states, was induced by Mr. Walter not to bid on the property by the promise that the latter would pay the bank's claim. It is alleged that as a result of Walter's efforts to avoid notoriety, the property sold for about a tenth of its value. It is further claimed that the matter of the sale was previously agreed upon between Walter and the defendants, and that the property was the first for by Howard & Son's own money, and consequently the sale was not a *bona fide* one.

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THE SALARY QUESTION.

The Retrenchment and Reform Committee Conclude Their Labors—Reductions to be Recommended.

The Committee on Retrenchment and Reform met again last evening and concluded their labors for the present. Their action upon the salaries in the several departments was as follows:

CITY ASSESSOR.

The salary of the City Assessor and Clerk of the Board of Revision was first taken up and on motion of Mr. Foley the salary of the official who performs the duties of both offices was fixed at $2,200. The salary is now $3,300.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The salaries paid in the Fire Department were next taken up and it was decided to recommend the following reductions:

	Per year.	
Chief Engineer, from	$1,680 to	$1,300
Assistant Engineer, from	1,380 to	1,100
Storekeeper, from	1,200 to	900
Secretary, from	1,000 to	780
Foremen, each, from	1,020 to	900
Engineers, each, from	1,000 to	850
Drivers, each, from	930 to	780
Horsemen, etc., each, from	900 to	780

POLICE.

The Police department next came up for consideration, and on motion of Mr. Powers, an ordinance was ordered reducing the force twenty-five patrolmen, two detectives and five lieutenants.

The salary of the Chief of Police was then fixed at $1,300. His salary is now $1,500 per year. The reduction recommended as to patrolman's pay still maintains.

The salary of the Mayor's Clerk was reduced from $2,000 per annum to $1,600 per annum.

WATER ASSESSOR.

The Water Assessor and his assistant next came up and reduction was recommended as follows:

	Per year.	Per year.
Assessor, from	$1,700 to	$1,500
Assistant, from	1,080 to	900

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The Board of Health was the next department considered, and on motion of Mr. Shipton they were requested to abolish the office of three Sanitary Inspectors and to make the following reductions:

	Per year.	Per year.
Meat Inspector	$2,200	$1,500
Solicitor	300	200
Physician	1,000	500
Clerk to, per day, $2 50		

It should be stated here that Councils have no power to make any reductions in the Health Department, and the only action they can take is to recommend the reductions.

CITY ATTORNEY.

At the last meeting of the committee, the salary of the City Attorney was reduced from $5,000 to $4,000 per annum. This action was reconsidered and now no reduction will be made.

The salary of Messenger to Councils was reduced from $1,000 to $800 per year. Mr. Foley moved to reduce it to $750, but this was lost.

WHARFMASTERS.

The Wharfmasters' salaries were reduced as follows:

	Per year.
North Side from	$1,200 to $1,200
South Side from	1,000 to 600

A resolution was also adopted requesting the Street Committee to direct the First District Commissioner to clean and repair both the Monongahela and Allegheny wharves and the Sixth District Commissioner to repair and clean the South Side Monongahela wharf.

The following reductions were recommended on the salaries paid in the Market Department:

	Per year.
Superintendent from	$1,200 to $1,080
Clerk North Side from	1,200 to 1,080
Clerk South Side from	1,000 to 900
Three constables each	900 to 810
Sweepers (Diamond) each from	640 to 540

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE.

The salary of the Controller is fixed by act of Assembly and cannot be reduced by Councils. In the other officers the following reductions were mane:

	Per year.
Assistant Controller from	$2,000 to $1,800
Clerk from	900 to 810

The clerk was then directed to prepare ordinances for the above reductions for the meeting of Common Council on Monday.

On motion adjourned.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House—"La Jolie Parfumeuse."

Offenbach's new opera, "The Pretty Perfumer," performed last evening by Mrs. Gates' company for the first time in Pittsburgh, delighted all who heard it. The score of the opera is replete with the sparkle and fun which distinguish all Offenbach's compositions and, which is a rare treat, rendered with the skill and life that this organization always gives to everything it undertakes. The plot of the opera is almost a minus quantity; but it serves as a basis on which to build a few rather funny situations and some remarkably lively and inspiriting gems of music.

Mrs. Gates as *Rose Michon*, the heroine of the opera, never appeared to better advantage. She was in magnificent voice, and rendered the brilliant music of her part with all the life and fun for which Offenbach's compositions afford so capital a scope. She was decidedly in her element, and was well supported. Miss Temple's *Clorinde* was also finely acted and sung. Mr. Drew's *Bévodet* afforded scope for some peculiarly fine singing, and a quality of acting which rather surprised Mr. Drew's friends. Mr. Howson's acting as *Coudrave* was peculiarly forcible and kept the audience in continual laughter throughout the opera. The support of Miss Chapman and Messrs. Laurent, Hall and Jones, all of whom sang and acted throughout, was capital and could hardly have been improved upon. The close of the second act from the song of *Rose Michon* in disguise as a flower girl, to the uproarious drunken scene which closes the act, was the climax of the whole performance. The perfection and life with which it was rendered, and the whole jolly music was sung, made the third act seem a little tame, notwithstanding the funny acting of Mr. Howson in that scene. The music at the close of the second act was by itself an evening's entertainment well worth hearing.

To-night "The Princess of Trebizonde" will be given, and as this is the last night, but one, of the performances of the Oates' troupe, we shall expect a full house.

Library Hall—"Jane Eyre."

The oftener one sees Miss Charlotte Thompson as *Jane Eyre*, the more beauties he discovers in her portrayal of the character. She possesses the faculty, which is the power of very few actors, entirely sinking her individuality in that which she personates; and this, combined with rare abilities and great personal charms, insures for her auditors a dramatic portrayal of extraordinary merit. Free from everything meretricious, her conception stands far above what we are accustomed to see on the stage. Every word, every movement tells. Quiet, graceful, easy, and a good reader, she seldom fails to sympathies of her auditors through every scene. She has shown, too, fine discrimination in the selection of her company, and every character, even the smallest, is filled by quite competent hands. Mr. Sheridan we have already commended for his masterly impersonation of the character of *Lord Rochester*. He will be seen to-night in any line of business, but specially good in the one assigned him at Library Hall. Mr. Sol. Smith's *Prof. Brockhurst* is a supplement to the other portraitures, showing the canting hyprocrite to the life. Mrs. Sol. Smith, Miss Emma Stone, Miss Kate Newton, Manie Sheridan, Miss Ryeson, Mr. Wallace—in fact all in the company are deserving of praise.

The audience last evening was the largest of the week, and showed how great was the appreciation of the play and the players by much clapping of hands. Miss Thompson was honored with several recalls. This evening "Jane Eyre" will be presented for her benefit, and it is to be hoped our citizens will turn out and give a fitting acknowledgment of her artistic merit.

Fifth Avenue Comedy Theater.

Harrigan and Hart have the following immense audiences to the Comedy Theater by their clever impersonations in the play of "The Doyle Brothers." The new specialties, "The Skidmore Guards" and the "Green Above the Red" are just as "taking" as any of the others they have given previously. Harrigan's Irishman is done to perfection, everybody agreeing that he has few equals in that line. Hart's characterizations also are much praised. "The Doyle Brothers" to-night again.

Grand English Opera.

There was a rush for seats for the English opera nights at Library Hall on Monday and Tuesday, at Hale's, yesterday, forshadowing a large audience to-night. On Monday evening Benedict's opera, the "Lily of Killarney," will be sung, with Madame Jennie Van Zandt, Miss Annie Montague and William Castle in the cast. On Tuesday "The Huguenots" will be presented.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The programme presented last night, like that which preceded it, was of unexceptionable character, and greatly pleased the large crowd present. It is here that many leading citizens seek relaxation after the worry of the day's business is over, and they seem greatly to enjoy the fun. The company is a very large one, made up of first class performers, and deserves the liberal patronage bestowed.

Lookout Mountain.

Walker's painting of the Battle of Lookout Mountain will remain on exhibition in this city to-day and to-morrow only, and those who have as yet neglected to go and see it should make it a point to do so at once.

Tramps Cause a Fire.

Wednesday night, about half-past eight o'clock, an unoccupied dwelling at Copeland station, near Braddocks Field, was set on fire, and burned to the ground. The house was a two story frame, owned by Isaac Mills, Sr., and had not had an occupant for about two months. There was such strong evidence of incendiarism as the discovery of oil poured over the cellar floor. The loss will amount to eighteen hundred dollars, which is partially covered by insurance. The Fire Marshall has been notified and will investigate the matter. The building, it is said, was occupied by tramps on the night of the fire, a fact which will explain the origin of the blaze.

THE FAIR YESTERDAY.

Successful Day at City Hall.

Those who visited the Homeopathic Fair yesterday will certainly repeat the experiment, and those who have not yet had the pleasure should early take opportunity to do so, for never have there been greater attractions gathered within the walls of old City Hall. The various booths are not only elaborately and beautifully decorated, abounding in articles of ornament and value, but it would seem that our cities had been laid under tribute to supply the most beautiful young ladies within their borders to act as the graceful dispensers of the aforesaid articles too numerous to mention.

The first object that meets the eye upon entering the hall, is the flower temple and, although this booth in former fairs was counted *the* great attraction, we can safely say that this time it has outdone itself, exhibiting most perfect taste in design and arrangement.

The parties having charge of this lovely temple are Mrs. Wm. Hamilton and Miss Ameline Verner, with the following array of assistants; Misses Martha Childs, Nell Stewart, Alice Sellers, Mattie Moody, Minnie Sellers, Rilie Means, Lizzie Wilson, Lillie Means, Florence Campbell and Sue Horne.

The Japanese pagoda will next attract attention, occupying a similar position in the hall towards the stage and rising to grand proportions, and having the very appearance of the imported article. This is really a handsome affair, and is at all times a great centre of attraction, not alone we may judge from the marvelous variety of Japanese ware, such indeed as has never before been seen in this city, but the list which here follows may in some way account for the remarkable phenomenon. We ask our readers to judge for themselves. The ladies in charge are Mrs. M. K. Moorhead, Mrs. Chas. J. Clarke, Mrs. Geo. F. McCleane and Miss McClelland. Their assistants are, Misses Katie Hutchinson, Annie Wells, Stella Jones, Lettie Caldwell, Mary Blair, Mamie O'Hara, Lizzie Marshall, Lucy O'Hara, Mollie Caldwell, Haddie Hamilton, Alicia McCleane, Jeanie Moorhead, Sallie McClelland, Jennie Balkam and Lizzie Kelsey.

We must postpone the mention of other booths, but would urge in the meantime that every one go to the fair and make personal inspection of the many attractions there to be found.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

Inaugural Meeting of the Union Normal Class.

The Union Normal Class of Sunday School workers held their first meeting for lesson drill last evening, in the parlor of the Y. M. C. A. Representative workers, male and female, from various schools were in attendanbe and were warmly interested in the proceedings. Sidney Omohundro, President, occupied the chair, and Samuel W. Hay, Esq., acted as Secretary.

After a Bible reading by the Chairman, and singing by the choir, the invocation was offered by Thomas Bakewell, Esq. It was then announced that Rev. Dr. I. C. Pershing had been appointed Normal Conductor of the evening, was unexpectedly and regretfully detained by imperative business, and that his place would be supplied by Wm. J. Jackson, Esq., of the Liberty Street M. E. Methodist Episcopal Church. The topic, "How to Study a Lesson," was under consideration, and Mr. Jackson handled the subject in a manner creditable to himself and instructive to the members of the class. The following points were made:

1. Special preparation, each week, is necessary by the teacher for his class-work, no less than by the minister for his pulpit work.

2. In undertaking this preparation earnest prayer for the aid of the Holy Spirit. Prayer gives spiritual perceptions.

3. Take ample time for the study of your lesson. Read, re-read, memorize, repeat and ponder it. Begin early in the week. Study parallel passages. Think about your lessons constantly.

4. After independent examination, consult all available helps. Ask yourself concerning the scholars, their mental and spiritual condition. Imagine yourself in the position of your scholars.

5. Lay hold of the central thought, the prominent idea, principle or truth involved. Study to bring out the historic connections. Ascertain the who, where, when and what of the history.

6. As soon as possible get at the spiritual, doctrinal or practical parts of the lesson. Study betorehand how you may apply every lesson to the hearts of your scholars. Go from your closet to your class.

The next meeting of the class will be held in the parlor of the Young Men's Christian Association on Thursday evening, 16th inst., when the topic "How to Teach a Lesson" will be considered. Text leaves for the meeting will be distributed at the noon meeting next Saturday in the Young Men's Christian Association rooms.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD.

Summary of Reports for November.

The following is a summary of the weather reports for the month of November, received at the Pittsburgh station:

DATE.	Daily barometer.	Daily temperature.	Daily humidity.	Prevailing direction of wind.	Daily rainfall.
November 1..	29.34	34.2	79.3	S. W.	.04
November 2..	30.10	36.2	64.7	N.	....
November 3..	29.80	35.2	76.7	E.	.43
November 4..	29.58	37.2	87.3	N. E.	.07
November 5..	30.04	36.5	76.0	N.	....
November 6..	30.12	38.5	66.0	W.	....
November 7..	30.08	39.1	74.0	N. W.	....
November 8..	30.18	41.0	70.0	N.	....
November 9..	30.08	41.7	87.3	N. E.	....
November 10..	29.83	40.0	85.0	N. W.	.22
November 11..	30.01	42.7	54.0	W.	....
November 12..	30.04	45.2	74.0	S. W.	....
November 13..	29.82	46.2	74.7	N.	.18
November 14..	29.54	44.5	75.7	W.	.33
November 15..	29.69	45.7	69.3	W.	....
November 16..	29.88	35.0	68.0	N. W.	....
November 17..	30.06	29.7	70.0	N. W.	....
November 18..	29.94	40.2	50.7	S.	....
November 19..	29.81	49.7	76.0	W.	....
November 20..	29.72	42.7	82.0	E.	....
November 21..	30.31	35.5	69.3	N. W.	....
November 22..	30.30	34.5	70.0	N. W.	....
November 23..	30.01	47.0	95.3	S. W.	1.05
November 24..	30.48	31.7	66.0	N. W.	....
November 25..	30.38	28.2	72.0	N.	....
November 26..	29.98	48.0	87.7	N.	.32
November 27..	30.35	35.7	70.3	....	....
November 28..	30.36	44.5	74.0	S. W.	.19
November 29..	30.37	24.0	64.0	N.	....
November 30..	30.32	16.2	66.0	N. E.	....
Means....	30.06	38.7	69.8	....	....

GENERAL ITEMS.

Highest barometer 30.650, 22d; lowest barometer 29.43, 14th. Highest temperature, 62 degrees, 12th; lowest temperature, 8 degrees below zero, 30th. Prevailing direction of wind, northeast. Greatest velocity of wind, 18 miles; total number of miles, 4,769. Number of cloudy days, 8; number of rainy days, 11. Total rainfall, 2.96 inches. Temperature in 1874, 40.9; temperature in 1873, 35.8.

L. A. WELSH,
Sergeant Signal Service, U. S. A.

THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

Expenditures for Repairs the Past Ten Months.

Assistant City Clerk Booth, who "keeps the figures" for the street department, has prepared the following statement, to be presented to the committee this evening, of the expenditures for the ten months of the present year, to November 1st, for the purpose of cleaning out streets and keeping them in repair. The table shows the appropriation for each district and the balance remaining for further expenses during the months of November and December:

DISTRICTS.	Appropriations.	Expenditures.	Balance.
First	$ 22,184 00	$ 19,294 65	$ 2,889 35
Second	19,364 00	16,972 81	2,471 19
Third	15,228 00	11,429 13	3,798 87
Fifth	10,904 00	8,568 57	2,335 43
Sixth	10,349 00	8,795 52	1,574 48
seventh	10,340 00	9,567 09	812 36
Viewers	6,000 00	4,721 60	1,278 34
Engineers	15,640 00	9,887 41	2,079 99
Total appropriation for streets	$110,960 00		
Total expenditures	93,860 10		
Unexpended balance	$ 17,139 90		

The appropriation to the Engineer's department was made large enough to cover miscellaneous expenses, such as constructing culverts. Thus far these expenses have amounted to $3,672 62, which added to the expenses proper in the Engineer's department and deducting the whole from their appropriation leaves the balance given in the table.

The appropriation, it should be stated, was $30,000 less than for last year, and will just about cover the expenses for the year.

Allegheny Street Committee.

This committee met last evening and transacted the following business:

The City Engineer was instructed to prepare a profile of grades of Preble avenue from Wilkins to Elm streets.

A petition for a cinder walk on O'Hern from Buena Vista street to Perrysville road, was referred to a sub-committee with power to act. Committee, Price, Cochran and Beadell.

A committee was appointed to take into consideration the project of opening a street through Vandergift's plan of lots in the Fifth ward. Committee, Golden, Heagy and Wall.

A petition was received from a citizen of the First ward, setting forth that one of his former tenants had skipped, leaving four dollars rent in arrears. The petition asked that the amount be deducted from the skipper's pay as a street laborer. Some discussion was had on this subject, and it was proposed to refer the matter to the Street Commissioner in conjunction with the City Solicitor. The petition was ordered on file.

The ordinances for the payment of the cost of constructing stone wall on Howard street, was ordered on file.

The pay rolls were approved as follows: Eastern district, $1,490 79; Western district, $1,339 78, and bills amounting to $6.

The City Engineer and Solicitor were instructed to examine into and collect bills due on the repair of sidewalks on Preble avenue.

On motion it was decided to